

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Buena Vista Park: fenced away or eroding away?
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

City Plans Fences To End Park Cruising

Needed For Erosion Control In Buena Vista, Says Plan;
Replanting Called For But May Be Delayed

by Brian Jones

The city Recreation and Park Department proposes to block off popular gay cruising areas of Buena Vista Park with a four-foot-high chain link fence. The quarter mile of fencing would enclose four areas described by the Park Dept. as the "established territory of (a) special user group"—gays. The fencing is described as an erosion control measure and is a top priority of the proposed Master Plan for Buena Vista Park.

(Continued on page 7)

CDC Charged on Research Snafus

Panel Hits Agency on Mismanagement;
No Evidence of Tampering, Suppression

by Charles Linebarger

Basic research against AIDS has suffered because of mismanagement and inconsistent leadership at the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, a national panel concluded last week. However, the three-member group from the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine said that it had not found evidence to support allegations that data had been suppressed or that there had been frequent tampering with experiments.

"The AIDS Program Laboratory has not enjoyed . . . consistent leadership and the lack has affected staff morale," says the report. "In the opinion of this committee, each of the doubts raised about the AIDS Program Laboratory activities can be traced to the lack of strong scientific leadership and clear research goals and the consequent low morale."

(Continued on page 18)

New UC Study

Healthy Immune Systems Can Fight Off AIDS Virus

Antibody May Mean Halt to Virus Growth;
Immune System Boost Called Best Therapy

AIDS researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, say that new research indicates that a person's own immune system is capable of fighting the virus, without the use of antiviral drugs. The discovery could lead to new therapies for the disease.

In an article appearing in the Dec. 19 issue of *Science*, the researchers, led by Dr. Jay A. Levy, professor of medicine and a virus expert in the Cancer Research Institute at UC-San Francisco, reported that a subset of the body's T-cells, called suppressor T-cells, appear to be able to control the virus in cell culture and evidently in some patients.

(Continued on page 2)



Dr. Jay Levy. (Photo: Rink)



God bless the calories, indeed! These cakes are G-rated versions of the normal bill of fare at an X-rated Polk Street bakery. For more info about the Polkstrasse that really takes the cake, please turn to page 15.

(Photo: Savage Photography)



Today

Vigil II: Alameda County got its own Vigil when the county's supervisors again declined to put money into AIDS services. Charlie Linebarger reports, page 25.

Holidaze: Allen White previews the entire schedule of holiday events, concerts, and parties, page 4.

Breaking Down Barriers: Priscilla Alexander, new aide to Sen. Milton Marks, sets some goals for the new year in Sacramento. See pag 22.

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DR. RICK
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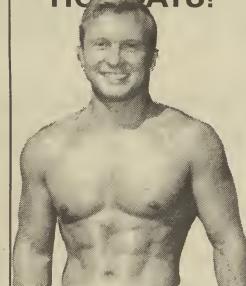
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Photos by Richard Law

BAY AREA REPORTER DECEMBER 18, 1986 PAGE 2

Lack of U.S. Funds May Close UC Lab

Primary Research to be Cut Off

by Allen White

The AIDS research laboratory of Dr. Jay Levy at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco, one of the primary research centers in the world, is in a day-to-day fight to stay open. Lack of federal funding may force substantial cutbacks or even closure before the end of the year.

The laboratory, on the brink of closing for several weeks, received a last minute reprieve with the donation of \$10,000 last week. An additional \$15,000 is expected next week. But a \$150,000 grant from the federal government which was applied for last summer will not be processed until next March.

The financial crisis has caused Levy to spend almost half his time attempting to raise funds. "The key problem," says Levy, "is that there is no mechanism for interim funding and that's not right. What we're being told, in effect, is that we're spending too much money."

This research laboratory is one of the three most important AIDS research centers in the world. It was the first to discover that the AIDS virus can damage the brain. It was one of three to identify the actual AIDS virus. This past week they again released significant findings to assist other researchers in the search for treatments to fight the disease.

Levy says his problems are faced by other research labs across the country. Working on the cutting edge of the fight against AIDS, the laboratory is forced to spend sizable amounts of money. As the money runs out the federal government has no procedure to provide supplemental funding.

Levy is outraged by the inability of the government to provide money. He says there are many in the government who are trying to find money for the laboratory. As an example, he says, "We were told to expect an answer any day for more money. We got the answer and it was 'no'. They're as frustrated as hell, and I believe them."

"\$150,000 is not a lot of money from the government," he said. "The problem is there is no legislation in place to make the funds available."

The impending closure was first made public last month by TV reporter Jim Bunn on KPIX AIDS Lifeline segment. Bunn reported that, "Researchers say there is a pattern of systematic neglect by the Reagan Administration." He pointed to a report from the National Academy of Sciences which says that if the Reagan Administration doesn't act on the AIDS epidemic soon, the disease will be completely out of control.

Dr. Paul Volberding, an AIDS researcher at San Francisco General, told KPIX, "The thing I hope we can see is more evidence of Presidential leadership" in the AIDS health crisis.

That leadership would not appear to be immediately forthcoming. Pres. Ronald Reagan has only made one public statement about AIDS. At a press conference last summer he explained the lack of funds for AIDS research by saying, "You know our financial problem, I don't know how much there is for us, but we've been doing all we can do."

Currently the U.S. government has budgeted \$410 million in 1987 to fight AIDS. By contrast



Dr. Paul Volberding.
(Photo: Rink)

the government has budgeted \$3.2 billion for the "Star Wars" defense system research and almost ten times that amount, \$4 billion for the fight against drugs.

Pres. Reagan proposed no federal funding for AIDS in 1982 and 1983. In 1984, he proposed spending \$40 million.

Dr. Levy has now been forced to aggressively look for grants from the private sector. He will see no federal money until at least next March. Levy says the State of California has been a major source of money but they have also exhausted their allocations.

"I see no immediate solution," he says. Levy is hoping that legislation will appear soon to provide money for the fight against AIDS when budgeted funds are exhausted.

If additional funding does not appear he will then begin to layoff members of his staff. "I keep working every day," Dr. Levy says with guarded optimism.

There are currently over 26,000 cases of AIDS reported in the United States with over 13,000 dead. It is estimated that there will be over 270,000 cases of AIDS in the United States and 179,000 deaths total by 1991, with over 54,000 people dying of AIDS that year alone.

This effect dramatically illustrates the potential importance of CD8 lymphocytes in inhibiting AIDS virus replication and spread, Levy and Walker emphasize.

The researchers suspect that the CD8 T-cells produce some as yet unidentified substance, much like interleukin-2 or interferon, that interferes with the replication of the virus in infected T-cells.

T-cells usually are divided into two major subsets: helper and suppressor T-cells. The T-cells in the suppressor subset, which are marked by CD8, typically downregulate other cells of the immune system, though some cells, called cytotoxic cells, may kill virus-infected cells or cancer cells. Cells in the helper subset are marked by a protein called CD4.

The study suggests that the suppressor function of CD8 T-cells, not the cytotoxic function, is the important factor in inhibiting the replication of the virus, because when CD8 cells were added to these cultures they did not actually kill virus-infected AIDS virus.

To apply this observation to therapy, CD8 T-cells would have to be removed from the blood of a person, grown in culture with the help of a T-cell growth factor (interleukin-2), and returned to that person. The UCSF results

(Continued on page 18)

The finding emerged from intensive study of a specific subset of individuals infected with the AIDS virus. Despite having antibodies to the virus, these people have no signs of the disease, nor

Insurance Commissioners Ban 'Lifestyle' Queries, OK Testing

Approve Guidelines Prohibiting Application Questions; Leave It to States to Regulate HIV Testing

by George Mendenhall

The first insurance guidelines that could halt anti-gay discriminatory practices of insurers have been passed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. This could result in the adoption of the guidelines by individual state insurance commissions and state legislators.

Attorney Ben Schatz, director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project of National Gay Rights Advocates, said that although the insurance industry had urged the commissioners to come out in favor of HIV antibody testing as a criteria for getting insurance, the group chose to leave that issue to the discretion of individual states. The influential group of insurance regulators took a firm stand against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

During their Dec. 9 conference in Orlando, Florida, the state commissioners adopted a policy proposed by Schatz and Jeff Levi, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and members of an Advisory Committee on AIDS. The activists have served on the commissioners' committee with a group of insurance company representatives. They had met in several locations across the country over the past year to formulate the adopted non-discriminatory statement.

"This resolution is a very important victory for gay men and lesbians," said Levi. "It sends a strong message to the insurance industry that a person's sexual orientation is irrelevant in the decision to grant insurance. It embodies a recognition that AIDS is not a 'gay' disease, and that therefore gay people should not be singled out and denied insurance coverage."

The commissioners unanimously approved these guidelines:

- A person's sexual orientation shall not be part of a written or oral inquiry in determining if an applicant qualifies for coverage.

- Questions about AIDS or ARC diagnosis are proper but must be based on fact rather than general questions such as "Do you believe you have AIDS?"

- Medical or factual questions to determine a medical condition are permissible if not used to determine sexual orientation and the applicant must be given ample opportunity to respond.

- Questions relating to diagnosis or treatment are permissible.

- "Living arrangements," marital status, occupation, gender, medical history, beneficiary designation, zip code, or other territorial classification may not be used to establish, or aid in establishing, an applicant's sexual orientation.

- An insurer may impose rates but only if such rates are based on sound actuarial principles or are related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience.

- There shall be no adverse underwriting decision based on a person's demonstrated AIDS-related concerns by seeking counseling. This does not apply to an applicant seeking treatment or diagnosis.

STATES ALLOW TESTING

California legislation does not permit insurance companies to give the HIV antibody test to applicants as a criteria for accepting applications. In those states that do allow such testing, the commissioners passed a separate restriction. It states that before the test is taken the person must be informed what it is for and given his or her consent in writing.

The guidelines state, "No adverse underwriting decision

shall be made on the basis of such a positive AIDS related test unless an established test protocol has been followed."

In addition to California, the states of Arizona, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia prohibit HIV testing by insurers.

The commissioners did not pass a restriction against insurers asking if a person had taken an AIDS antibody test and tested positive. That option was left to

insurance commissioners in individual states.

"The commissioners did not cave in to heavy pressure for the test from the insurance industry," said Levi. "The decision to let the states decide their own policies reflects the lack of consensus in the insurance community on the testing issue. We continue to strongly oppose testing as a pre-condition to obtaining insurance."

Insurance laws and regulations

Jeff Levi



are determined by state commissioners and state legislators.

Schatz believes that the passage of the guidelines by the national commissioners group is as close to national control as can be achieved. He is optimistic about the effect of the guidelines in the future as they are used by state commissioners and as a basis for additional non-discrimination legislation in other states.

The new guidelines were endorsed by the major lobbying

groups for the insurance industry—the Health Insurance Association of America and the American Council of Life Insurance. Amy Biderman, spokeswoman for the associations, said "These are only guidelines. Now, we have to start working with individual states."

Twenty-nine states do not have laws that prohibit insurance discrimination based on sexual orientation. "Now it is up to individual states."

(Continued on page 13)

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Dignity will return to the Castro Theater for Christmas.

Twelve Days of Christmas

A Complete Guide To The Holidaze Party Odyssey

by Allen White

Parties, musical celebrations and a time of giving permeate the chilly winter air as the gay community prepares for Christmas.

Kicking off the festivities is the gay musical celebration, Now Sing with Hearts Aglow, to be presented Saturday night (Dec. 20) and Christmas Eve at Mission High School. For the seventh year the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has joined with other gay musical aggregations for a night of holiday music. This year the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco joins the festivities. Reserved seats are available at Great Earth Vitamins and non-reserved tickets are at Headlines.

Saturday night is also the time for the Trocadero Transfer's Winter Wonderland party. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Tonight (Dec. 18) the new Electric City television crew presents their premiere show, a gay Christmas production with Carol Fyfe as Dr. Farkle, on Viacom's Channel 6 at 10 p.m. The Pendulum is also planning a Christmas fundraiser the same night.

Sunday (Dec. 21) is the day for the Band Foundation's Christmas Gala and Dance-Along Nutcracker at the Giftcenter. The doors open at 5 p.m. with the show starting at 6. For the two-hour show, Danny Williams will mc a presentation which features the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps, the San Francisco FLAG Corps, the San Francisco Tap Troupe, the Vocal Minority and City Swing. Unreserved seats are \$12 at Headlines and reserved seat information is available by calling 621-5619.

At 4 p.m., a new company, HNRG Productions, presents Special Circle of Friends at Club DV8 at 55 Natoma Street. Terry Iten is performing. Tickets in advance at Headlines are \$15 and the door price is \$20.

The Kokpit's Christmas Party starts at the Tenderloin bar at 5 p.m. There is a salute to the Godfather Service Fund with prizes given in a raffle.

The party moves at 9 p.m. over to the Campus Theater for their unique Christmas at the Campus extravaganza and party. Their Varsity Strip Squad will perform to yuletide melodies. All customers get complimentary beverages and mistletoe.

The annual Shanti Project Christmas party is Sunday afternoon. All Shanti volunteers, people with AIDS and their families

and friends are invited. Further information is available by calling Shanti (558-9644).

The Metropolitan Community Church Christmas Concert is Sunday night at 7. Vivaldi's Gloria and other Christmas music will be presented by the church choir. Admission is free at the 150 Eureka Street location.

The Dignity Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will again be presented at the Castro Theatre. This will be the second year the gay Catholic organization has used the Castro Theatre for the service. It has become the largest Christmas event presented by the religious gay community of San Francisco. The homophobic positioning in the last few months by the Roman Catholic Church has given special meaning to this Mass.

The Gay Men's Chorus Now Sing With Hearts Aglow concert will be presented earlier that evening at 7.

Christmas Day there will be special dinner menus at many of the city's gay restaurants. The Galleon's Janet Cory strongly suggests that reservations be made in advance. The Elephant Walk has chosen Christmas Day to donate 100 percent of their revenue after 5 p.m. to the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund.

Friday night, after Christmas, Congregation Ahavat Shalom celebrates Hanukkah, the "festival of lights" at 8:15 p.m. They are asking people to bring food for the AIDS Foundation Foodbank.

After Christmas, the parties continue. December 28 will be the 50th birthday party for Cable Car head Bob Cramer. The party is at The Galleon, cost is \$25, and all profits go to the AIDS Fund.

The huge Giftcenter party, So Many Men 1987, is themed Trojan Men. Producers Sanford Kellman and Randy Schiller are planning a spectacular midnight extravaganza. At midnight they are promising "a 13th century B.C. Homeric odyssey will be re-lived." Tickets are \$25 in advance at Headlines and be prepared for a sell-out.

First Night, S.F. is a unique, safe, non-alcoholic festival throughout the city. For \$5 you gain admittance to several locations including the Women's Building, Ghirardelli Square, Fort Mason Center, New Performance Gallery, Third Wave Dance Studio, Noe Valley Ministry, the South of Market Hidden Warehouse, the York Theatre and more. Performers are scheduled at all locations including the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Bobby McFerrin, City Swing, and the Barbary Coast Cloggers. Further information is available by calling 928-6066.

Sharon McNight performs New Year's Eve at the City Cabaret. The midnight show includes buffet, champagne, dancing, the show and the cost is \$75 per person.

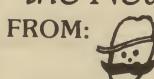
Trocadero Transfer's New Year's Eve extravaganza is titled Midnight Madness. Music is by New York's premier dj Robbie Leslie. Admission is \$15 in advance with complimentary champagne. Tickets are available at all Headlines outlets.

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Push, guys, push. A Christmas tree grows in Castro . . . but not without a lot of work.

(Photo: Rink)

Quick Action Nabs Castro Attacker

Passersby Warn People; Call Cops; Help Corner Assailant

by Will Snyder

In recent years, the usual complaint about crime prevention is a lack of participation by bystanders. Three men threw a monkey wrench at that cliché on a recent Sunday morning on Castro Street.

Ron McLachlan, Todd Leone and Timothy Enman refused to run from danger when a young man decided to harass some gay people.

Their Dec. 7 actions will result in a Christmas Eve court date for 18-year-old David Anderson.

Anderson was charged with three felonies and a misdemeanor. He was arraigned on Wednesday, Dec. 10, and is charged with assault with a deadly weapon, battery on a person and assault on a police officer. He also is charged with disturbing the peace.

The worst thing that happened during the early morning hours was a confrontation between Enman and Anderson that ended with the former going through the front window of the Norse Cove Restaurant on Castro St. Luckily, Enman suffered only a small cut above the wrist and a small cut on the back.

But the two-handed push through the window was enough to cause police to charge Anderson, a large man at 6'4" and 260 pounds, with assault with a deadly weapon. The weapon in this case was the window.

According to McLachlan, the trouble began when he and Anderson had a confrontation at 18th and Castro Sts. "He bumped into me," related McLachlan, "and then said, 'You walk funny. I ought to beat the shit out of you!'"

Right after that statement, McLachlan said he rushed to a phone and immediately called the police. He added that he warned others on Castro to stay away from dangerous plate glass windows because of the potential for violence.

But the threat of violence wasn't over. Shortly after McLachlan got off the phone with the police, Leone said a man

entered The Bear, a bar on Castro, and asked the bartender for a couple of band-aids because someone had been hurt. The man also said that someone on Castro was causing trouble.

"I left the bar to go out and see if I could help because I had some tear gas on me," said Leone. "When I got out on the street I found this rather large man hassling some street people in a doorway alcove. There was blood on one of the street people."

Leone said that McLachlan told Anderson to leave the people alone. "He threatened to beat up Ron," said Leone, "and then he came toward me."

Leone said that he reached for his mace dispenser only to find that it wouldn't work. As he found himself backing up, Leone said Anderson taunted him, "What's matter, faggot?"

At this point, according to Leone, Enman and Anderson started a fight on the street. Leone said he blew his whistle and police arrived right away.

"(He (Anderson) tried to hide behind two cars," said Leone, "but I pointed him out to the cops."

According to witnesses, Anderson did not submit easily to the police. Force had to be used to subdue the man. McLachlan praised police efforts, saying the force against Anderson "was absolutely necessary."

As far as his actions were concerned, Leone said he wouldn't do things any differently. "I like the neighborhood," he said, "so I don't like this kind of thing to happen. If I had to do it again, I would be there to help without hesitation."

PWA Wins Legal Battle

Broward County Pays \$190,000 To Ex-Resident Todd Shuttleworth

by George Mendenhall

Todd Shuttleworth, 33, has won his lengthy legal battle against Broward County, Florida. The county had fired him after he was diagnosed with AIDS in 1984. The county commissioners decided to settle shortly before a U.S. District Court hearing was scheduled. The \$190,000 includes back pay, medical bills and legal fees and re-instatement. Broward officials made no admission of guilt, but agreed not to do it again.

While the victory was cheered by gay rights advocates, this was an "out of court" settlement that does not set a legal precedent. Activists hope that the decision will have a chilling effect on employers contemplating firing others with AIDS and result in large companies developing policies to cope with the situation.

The reinstated employee discovered he had swollen lymph nodes in May of 1984 and was soon diagnosed as having AIDS. His employer learned of his condition when he filed a dental insurance claim with the county. He was fired in September, although he had an exemplary work record. Shuttleworth called the action "irrational and medically unjustifiable."

The American Civil Liberties Union, which represented Shuttleworth, said the case has broad implications. Nan D. Hunter, ACLU Lesbian Gay Task Force official, said "Legally, the most significant aspect of it is that the county agreed that for all future AIDS-related cases, it would be bound by the federal civil rights laws. As a practical matter, the most significant aspect of it is

this defendant had to shell out almost \$200,000 in damages. That is going to have an enormous educational impact on employers in the future."

After Shuttleworth left Broward County, he moved to San Francisco so that he could take advantage of services available to people with AIDS here. He worked as a volunteer for the local AIDS Foundation. He said he was forced to leave Broward County because he could not find employment after he told the news media about his firing for having AIDS. He claimed he "had lost my job, the related fringe benefits, educational and insurance benefits, my good name and reputation, my residence and hope for stable health and a dignified life or death."

'As a practical matter, the most significant aspect of it is that this defendant had to shell out almost \$200,000 in damages.'

—Nan D. Hunter
ACLU

Following his dismissal Shuttleworth said he suffered considerable stress that had a detrimental effect on his immune system. "From the time of my AIDS diagnosis," said Shuttleworth, "my major efforts and concentration were in maintaining a positive mental outlook which I, and most experts, believe is a necessary condition in successfully living indefinitely with AIDS."

He said Broward County continued to "fuel public fears regarding casual contact with people with AIDS" after his 1984 dismissal by refusing to follow medical expert advice. He believes "there was a sudden reversal of my mental outlook as a result of their decision to fire me and this coincided with the only visible spread of my cancer associated with the AIDS virus." He said another Broward County employee, Donald Fanus, "deteriorated rapidly following his dismissal and is now dead."

The U.S. Justice Department said in June that federal law did not prohibit refusing to hire people with AIDS if employers cited fear of contagion. The U.S. opinion is not binding and several states have adopted laws prohibiting discrimination against people with AIDS. Until Congress or a U.S. Supreme Court decision resolves the matter, there will be increasing cases involving job discrimination based on AIDS. The Shuttleworth victory and cases like it that may follow could be a deterrent. ●

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Cycle for Life

NEW YORK TO SAN FRANCISCO

Cycle For Life In '87!

The formation of Cycle For Life '87, a 4,000-mile cross-country bicycle expedition, was announced in San Francisco by James T. Blazer, newly-elected president of the organization. The purpose of Cycle For Life is to educate the general public about AIDS and AIDS prevention as well as to raise money for Persons With AIDS across the country.

The AIDS message will be carried by 20 bicyclists to the hinterland from California to Washington, D.C. along a route now being formulated. The 70-day journey will begin in May, 1987. This year, 12 men and seven women cyclists, representing five states and Canada, rode in Cycle For Life from New York City to San Francisco.

"AIDS will affect all of us in one way or another," Blazer said. "Hundreds of people are dying every day and even more are diagnosed with the disease. We know that AIDS can be prevented with education and the purpose of

Cycle For Life is to take that message by means of people-to-people contact in those areas of the country in particular where such information may be the least obtainable."

Blazer, a veteran of the 1986 Cycle For Life ride, will be assisted in the 1987 program by two other veteran riders, Jill McIntire of Berkeley, California, as Secretary, and Jim Sutherland of San Francisco, as Treasurer. The current Board also includes Derek Liecty of Oakland, California, formerly Facilities Director of Gay Games II, who will administer fundraising and communications.

"We will need as much help as possible across the country in making this program a success," Blazer concluded. "We hope that anyone interested, particularly in the areas of fundraising, grant writing, and promotion, will contact us." Cyclists interested in riding in Cycle For Life '87 may also contact the national headquarters at 1680 Gouldin Road, Oakland, California 94611 or telephone (415) 339-3676.

CDC to Expand Definition of AIDS

by George Mendenhall

The current limited definition of AIDS will be expanded to include the most severe forms of AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) if a formal proposal by the Centers for Disease Control is adopted. Dr. Timothy J. Donero of the Atlanta-based federal agency informally announced this was under consideration at the CDC on Oct. 28. The CDC announced on Dec. 9 that it supported the change and has begun the months-long process of bringing it about.

Current and projected AIDS figures will skyrocket dramatically if the new definition is adopted. Under the current limited definition there are an estimated 28,000 people in the United States diagnosed with AIDS — 2,800 in San Francisco. These figures would increase many times if severe forms of ARC are included. The national total is expected to increase tenfold to 270,000 over the next five years under the current definition — possibly as high as 2.7 million under an expanding definition.

National reporting of AIDS is now limited to those with opportunistic diseases that commonly strike seriously damaged immune systems. These include, among others, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, a respiratory infection caused by a parasite, and Kaposi's sarcoma, a capillary form of cancer.

The broader definition could include mental deterioration (dementia) and the more serious forms of ARC, such as wasting-away syndrome, which are frequently as debilitating and fatal as the opportunistic infections.

The CDC decision to expand the definition must now go through a rigorous and lengthy evaluation. First, a panel of experts from across the country will discuss feasibility and attempt to define what ARC conditions should be included. This will be followed by approval by the Federal Office of Management and Budget. The new definition will then go to state epidemiologists.

AIDS activists have lobbied for an expanded definition for many years. Some people with ARC have difficulty obtaining full health and insurance benefits and social or medical services because they are not defined as having AIDS. The expanded definition could help alleviate this problem. The increased statistics could greatly accelerate interest in AIDS as a major catastrophe worthy of adequate funding for research, education, and care.

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Fences

(Continued from page 1)

Members of the Buena Vista Park Neighborhood Association, who dominated the year-long planning process on the park proposal, have been adamant that the city end gay cruising in the park.

"I have to forbid my children to go anywhere in it because of the extensive gay activity," said one neighborhood resident at the second of three community meetings on the park plan. Said another neighborhood resident, "I am seeing excessive public sex ... I'd like to see that cleaned up."

Park planners insist that the fencing is not an anti-gay strategy. Rather, they say the fences are needed to control erosion.

Said city landscape architect Bonnie Ng, "For now, this is just a proposal, and it is an extreme measure. But we intend to resort to it only in the most critically eroded areas."

Those areas happen to include all the popular gay cruising spots.

CONDO VIEWS

Two of the areas to be fenced are on the southeast slope overlooking the old St. Joseph's Hospital. The hospital was renovated and reopened this year as the swank Park Hill condominiums, with units in the \$150,000 to \$360,000 price range. New residents of the condos have been especially vociferous in demanding that the city end gay cruising in the park.

A third area to be fenced is the northwest slope adjacent to the parking lot at the summit. This area commands a view of the Golden Gate and Mount Tamalpais.

The fourth area to be fenced is at the southwest corner of the park, overlooking the Upper Haight neighborhood. It had been a secluded spot where straight and gay sunbathers, often nude, could lay out without being seen by nearby residents. That ended a year or so ago when the city removed about half the brush and trees from the area.

The proposed Master Plan describes the fences as "temporary." At a November meeting on the plan, a Park Dept. official said "temporary" could mean up to three years.

Everyone agrees that the areas at issue are eroding seriously and rapidly. Agreement ends there.

Nearby residents, and some Park Dept. staff members, blame the erosion on gay foot traffic. For them, "erosion control" requires control of gay traffic.

But gays who use the park blame the extensive cutting of ground cover for the most serious erosion. They say that the most serious erosion has taken place in the past two years. During that time, the city stripped the four areas of much of the ground cover—without planting new bushes or trees to hold the soil.

PRIVATE CUTTING

At the same time, at least two members of the neighborhood group have done extensive ground clearing themselves, in violation of a city ordinance. They have cleared areas near their homes. One of the illegal cutters has stacks of Buena Vista trees in his backyard for firewood.

One staff member involved in the Park Dept. plan confirmed this month that the city knew about the private cutters. "We have jumped on them some-



Looking down from Buena Vista Park. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

what," the staff member said.

Park Dept. officials have not, however, reported this violation of law to the police or to the city attorney's office.

In the past three years, the city has spent \$270,000 from its Open Space Fund for the tree-trimming and brush thinning in the park. However, the city has allocated no money for reforestation or replanting.

Thus, areas cleared as long ago as 1984 remain barren, or covered with wood chips, branches and debris.

The Park Dept.'s \$2.2 million Master Plan for Buena Vista includes \$710,000 for "erosion control"-related planting and \$120,000 for reforestation.

"Erosion control and reforestation are the highest priority items," the proposed Master

Plan states. However, the political reality is that money may run out before replanting and reforestation can be completed.

The Master Plan proposal acknowledges this possibility with the statement, "Because funding may be available from a variety of sources, the implementation of plan elements may not always proceed in a prescribed order."

Deborah Learner is a planner for the Park Dept. and heads the team which developed the Master Plan. "Money is the issue," Learner said this week. "It is a question of getting the money—and that's not easy."

Members of the Buena Vista Park Neighborhood Association are currently before the Open Space Fund, appealing for more money to trim trees and cut bushes.

Meanwhile, approval for money to replant and reforest is at least six months away. It may be years away.

One source of funds is the city's Open Space Fund, which is provided by a share of the property tax. But that fund will be hard-pressed in coming years, due to the passage last month of Proposition B. Prop. B requires that 12 percent of the Open Space Fund be earmarked for after-school programs.

Thus, planners are looking at a city bond issue, or a state grant, to fund the \$2.2 million plan. If the entire amount is not forthcoming, the erosion control and reforestation elements—totaling \$830,000—will come first, Learner said.

Putting a bond issue on the ballot, or applying for a state grant, are both time-consuming processes. And nothing can be initiated until the full Park Commission considers the proposed Master Plan this spring.

Even if reforestation and replanting is not funded, fencing off the four eroded areas might proceed. Fencing is listed as a separate \$20,000 line-item in the plan. Since erosion control is listed as the highest priority, and fencing is proposed for "the most eroded areas," fencing may be approved even while reforestation and replanting are left unfunded.

The Park Dept. is accepting comments on the plan through Saturday, Dec. 20, at its office, McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park.

Formal presentation of the plan is set for a community meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Randall Museum on Museum Way in the city.

Robert Pruzan also contributed to this report.

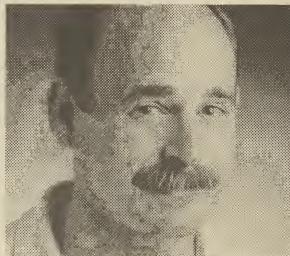
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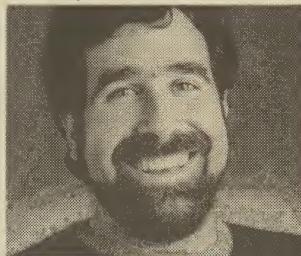
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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Vigilant

Alertly watchful to avoid danger. That's how the dictionary defines vigilant. For more than 13 months, the AIDS/ARC Vigil has been doing that. To post a vigil, a non-stop presence demanding change, is a dramatic form of protest. This vigil has taken our needs to the very doors of the federal bureaucracy that has heartlessly shrugged off those needs except when it is pushed to act.

For over one year, despite violent attacks on vigilers, harassment from city and federal workers, and bitter cold and rain, the Vigil has maintained the watch. It has reminded the community and the federal government that the crisis goes on. It has brought education to a neglected

definition of the disease. The CDC's current narrow definition of AIDS has artificially deflated statistics on the problem, undercut planning for treatment and excluded many from needed services.

The Vigil has achieved all that it is going to achieve. It is time to shift that energy from the cold barrens of UN Plaza to appropriate political actions to solidify and maintain the inroads made by the Vigil's efforts. The mere presence of the Vigil outside the old Federal Building won't likely gain much beyond what has already been accomplished.

The recently expressed annoyance by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services regional director George Miller is a measure of the Vigil's impact. Too bad Mr. Miller finds the Vigil a "blight"—it is his own failure he's looking at camped on his doorstep. Quiet shows of sympathy and relaying demands to headquarters are not sufficient. Are you a regional director or a messenger boy, Mr. Miller?



Miller's comment that Reagan's drug war is bigger than his concern for people with AIDS is not an explanation. Such thinking reflects the insensitivity that the Vigil has been campaigning against. The real blight at UN Plaza is inside the Federal Building and inside the federal government.

The challenge now is to shift gears so that our vigilance is maintained even without the Vigil. The original intent of the Vigil needs to be revitalized.

The health crisis continues and the federal government must still be prodded to move on issues associated with AIDS. But the Vigil is no longer the best means to address the problem. Now that public awareness of ARC and the problems of homeless people with AIDS/ARC has been raised, the next step needs to be taken. Vigil participants should re-define their purpose and strategy to maintain the impact of their long struggle in the cold. It's time to change tactics.

To persist in keeping the Vigil alive as it is will likely lead only to its dwindling to an eventual demise. Such an end would mean a lost opportunity. The Vigil broke new ground in pointing out the needs of homeless people with AIDS and ARC. That agenda remains unfinished. The Vigil needs to re-focus its efforts before it simply fades out of the picture.

Ray O'Loughlin

The challenge now is to shift gears so that our vigilance is maintained even without the Vigil encampment. It's time to change tactics.

and hard to reach segment of the population—the homeless. And it has brought to light the difficulties of homeless people with AIDS and ARC.

The problems are still there. The health crisis continues to grow. The federal response still lags. Education efforts and medical research have as big a job as ever to do despite some progress.

The Vigil has undoubtedly contributed to that progress. But as Vigil founder Steven Russell said, all good things must come to an end. Vigil participants should now formulate a means of bringing the AIDS/ARC Vigil to a close.

The Vigil has accomplished most of its goals. Federal spending for AIDS research and services has been budgeted by Congress for over \$400 million, close to the level demanded by the Vigil. Treatment drugs for people with AIDS and ARC have been released for general distribution, some on compassionate use protocols without the usually required extensive testing.

Awareness of ARC has been increased to the point that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control is revamping its concept of AIDS, broadening the

OPINION

Educate Our Legislators

by Tom Witte

Everyone within earshot of a radio or television during the election campaign deserves a reward for having survived this last round of dirty, deceitful, divisive campaigns. At least it's safe to go back to the TV and reacquaint ourselves with more comfortable consumer fare. No more negative commercials and confusing rhetoric. For the first time in months, when we hear words like assure, rely, and depend, we know, in the best of American tradition, these are products for purchase, not for politics.

So as we return to Cosby, the Colbys, and the Wheel, our new senators and representatives turn to the tasks for which they were elected. No doubt, they will be subjected to the gamut of special and general interest appeals. After all, the spoils still belong to the victor and post-election appeals are a time-honored tradition. The commercials are over. We have heard their side and made our choices. Now, they must be prepared to listen to us.

As gay and lesbian citizens, we have a special responsibility to inform and educate our legislators; not because we have been misrepresented or discriminated against or because we have any peculiar demands or deserve any particular protection. Rather, our community must begin the dialogue not because we *need* so much, but because we *have* so much to offer.

We have been on the cutting edge of social change for the last decade. Issues of concern from freedom and civil liberties to health and economy and crime and the quality of life, have been faced and are being dealt with in remarkable ways in our community. In many ways, we have seen the future and hold some valuable lessons.

We must also educate the newly-elected to the truth about AIDS; that it is no longer a disease of sexual preference, but is, increasingly, a disease of color and poverty. "Dehomosexualizing" AIDS is a responsibility which cannot be left to our health professionals because, unfortunately, it is in their best interests to continue along this path of least resistance. The CDC, prompted by the Reagan Administration, knows the power it maintains by constantly linking gay men to AIDS.

We must begin to educate our legislators to the truth. Most importantly, we must teach them that diseases are not prevented by keeping lists, or making laws, or locking people up. And, certainly, AIDS will never be defeated with such short-sightedness.

We must also remind our legislators of their responsibility to maintain our civil liberties. Our nation's highest court continues to return to the states power to determine norms for their citizens. As a result, each legislator must be very mindful of the high regard for which we hold our freedom. In some of our states, gay citizens have never fully held the right to private human expression. Such denials are the sad consequence of arbitrary mores of some being imposed on all. Our legislators must understand, in their hearts, that when freedom is denied to one, it is dishonored for all.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we should begin in a personal yet forthright way to let our legislators know that we are ordinary people. Chances are, no matter what party they represent, many of us voted for them. We are a homogenous part of our society, and we are your sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts. We are doctors and lawyers, teachers and preachers, salesmen and waiters, and yes, hairdressers, too. Most of all, we are Americans and we love our country as much as every other American. We respect our laws and our society and we *will* help to make it better.

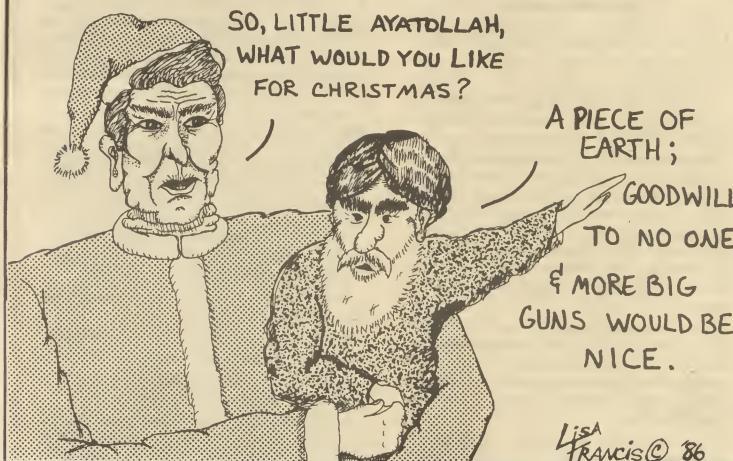
We have done much for our country and we are ready to do more. We wish our newly-elected officials wisdom and courage and we offer our support and best wishes. In return, we ask only that our community be accepted as partners and friends seeking progress for all Americans.

Now is the time for every concerned gay/lesbian citizen in our state to express his or her opinion. Find out who you helped to elect, find out where you can write to them, and send them a note of encouragement and concern. You have voiced your opinion in the ballot booth; now, come out of that closet and voice your opinion for us all. It's easy! Just pick up a pen and state your feelings. If you agree with this column and want to spread this message, clip it out and send it to someone who needs to hear this message.

We are a powerful resource. Let's start proving it, right now!

Reprinted from *Out Front*, Denver.

EDITORIAL & OPINION



Neiman-Marcus Responds

★ I would like to clear up the misconceptions in the Bruce Kears case against Neiman-Marcus.

Unfortunately, the day Charlie Linebarger called for my statement, I was unable to comment. I personally did not know what I could say about the case and what needed to be kept confidential. Neiman-Marcus prides itself in treating employees with fairness and respect. We have kept Bruce's files confidential — so to open this case to the public would not be fair to Bruce or any other employee of Neiman-Marcus.

When the hearings take place I feel you will realize the awkward position I was in — being restricted by policy and state laws.

I now know the legal ramifications and have received the notification from the Human Rights Commission — neither of which I had when Charlie Linebarger called.

I cannot speak about Bruce Kears' case specifically. I can inform the public that our employee sick leave plan is very fair. The plan applies to any illness regardless of severity. The length and provisions of sick leave are based on the employee's length of service. For example, three weeks of absence is allowed following six months of employment, 13 weeks following one year and 26 weeks of leave with five years or more of service. This plan is very common within our industry. Over and above the employee sick plan there are provisions for vacation and holidays as well.

Neiman-Marcus has various available medical plans, most of which can be converted to a private individual plan once the sick leave period has expired. The choice of medical plan is up to the individual employee.

When the sick leave expires, and the employee is unable to return to work, no matter what the illness, the employee is terminated from employment with the company. However the employee does have the opportunity of converting medical care coverage to a private plan.

We treat all employees with any medical condition, including AIDS, in a nondiscriminatory manner. We cannot discuss individual cases, but for the record, we've never terminated anyone because they had AIDS.

Neiman-Marcus has been hurt by this merciless illness and we as a company have been trying to help in the fight by supporting special research and care for victims of AIDS. Last year we held a major fundraiser in our store for the San Francisco AIDS Fund. This year we sponsored "22 On The Red," a fund-raiser given by the Golden Gate Business Association. A great part of the event's earnings went to organizations fighting AIDS.

I'm hoping, as is the entire company, that we can win this battle against AIDS. There is no justifiable battle between Bruce Kears and Neiman-Marcus, but there is a battle between AIDS and our society. Neiman-Marcus will continue to be a supportive leader in the fight against AIDS.

Peggy Mendelson
Vice President/General Manager
Neiman-Marcus
San Francisco

The Vigil

★ I was surprised at the tone of the article about the local federal Health and Human Services chief's attempt to get the mayor to evict the ARC/AIDS Vigil from his front doorstep. Why should it surprise the writer that the bureaucracy we have been protesting wants to get rid of a source of political embarrassment by trying to make it a yuppifying issue? That

obvious point got obscured, just as our friend in the Old Federal Building hoped it would. Could it be that someone in Washington suggested getting rid of an irritant without blame falling on HHS before Congress starts looking at the Reagan AIDS budget in January? After all, last year the Vigil even sent real live diagnosed people to Washington to lobby.

I wish Allen White had asked some of the other Vigil founders how they felt about what the Vigil is now. For example, John Belskus, who was busy organizing people to maintain an ongoing Vigil during the overnight. Mobilization-sponsored vigil, is currently active in the Vigil. John and I actually decided that night to block the Old Federal Building doors the next day, but Steven Russell asked that only people with ARC do so on that occasion and we deferred to him. Steven resigned from the Vigil about nine months ago. Frank Bert was quoted in an Allen White article in November of 1985 as saying the Vigil had served its purpose and should end, and indeed had already left the Vigil for the first of several times within four days after it was started. But some of the original people stayed and some have left and come back, proud of what the Vigil means and does now.

Ed Wyre
San Francisco

Why 150 PWAs Are Homeless

★ Many people with AIDS are homeless because they are excluded from GA, SSI, and even from the DSS Housing Hotline and city-funded shelters because of the eligibility requirements.

One of our clients is an illegal alien from Iran, a nation where homosexuality is punishable by death. He has AIDS but no ID and can't get any, so he is excluded from GA, food stamps, SSI, shelters, everything. Another is an illegal alien from Guatemala. The Bible conservative fundy regime in Guatemala has an anti-gay crusade in progress. He has phony ID, so he can use the hotline and shelters, but he can't apply for food stamps, GA or SSI because their computers can detect phony ID.

I know of at least four people with AIDS who are afraid to apply for welfare because there are outstanding warrants for petty offenses, and they fear the computer ID check will find the warrants.

Another person with AIDS is a prostitute. He was turned down for GA because he couldn't prove how he had been making a living. Drug dealers are usually drug users, and they too are fearful about applying for welfare because their illegal activities might be detected by the computer verification system.

Because GA requires its clients to sweep streets three days per week and spend another three days going to required interviews, it is not necessary to do ID verifications to prevent fraud. In my opinion, the only reason for the ID requirement is to reduce the case load (i.e., save money). The policy discriminates against homosexuals in general and AIDS victims in particular.

Malnutrition is a co-factor in all viral diseases, including AIDS, and excluding persons at high risk of AIDS from food and shelter is penny wise but pound foolish. Excluding AIDS victims from food and welfare and making them turn to prostitution and drug dealing to survive is sheer madness.

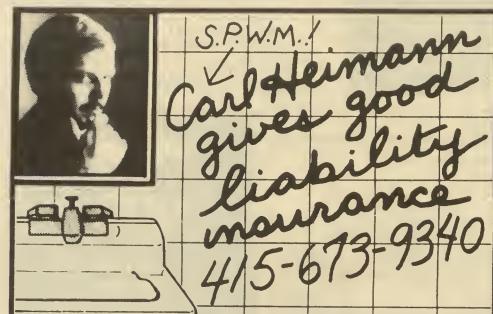
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LETTERS

Grandstanding

★ Charles Linebarger's outrageous piece, "Neiman-Marcus Charged with AIDS Bias" demands response.

It is unfortunate that Bruce Kears has AIDS. It is also unfortunate that he is finding it necessary to seek publicity for his paranoid fantasies.

What is not unfortunate, but unprofessional and disgraceful, is that two people who should know better, Charles Linebarger and Katherine Franke, have chosen to go public with such a batch of totally unsubstantiated and untrue accusations against a company, Neiman-Marcus, that both Mr. Linebarger and Ms. Franke are well aware, is forbidden by law to discuss the personnel file of any employee, past or present.

I am a proud member of the Neiman-Marcus family — and it is a family — and I can honestly say that in 30 years in the retail trade, I have never met anyone as supportive of gay causes, as understanding of gay concerns, and as caring of all the N-M family, as Peggy Mendelson.

Shame on Charles Linebarger — this is not representing. It is rumor-mongering. Shame on Katherine Franke — this is not professional behavior — it is grandstanding.

Christopher McKenna
 San Francisco

ED. NOTE: Charlie Linebarger's story was entirely fair and professional, including mention of N-M's past contributions to AIDS charities. We'll leave it to a court to decide the allegations.

Ray O'Loughlin

'Some Fine Day'

★ The thousands of gay/lesbian Roman Catholics, and especially the many who call themselves Dignity, indeed have the compassion of others. However, the understanding is strained. Many others feel that dignity is better served by casting irrelevancy from your lives.

Last week your Church was instrumental in defeating a proposed ordinance in New Orleans to protect gay/lesbian rights in housing and work. This only reflects historical policy. Worse is the recent edict that you are inherently evil for merely thinking homosexual thoughts. This is a denial of naturalness in humans. It is the moral equivalent for sanctified condemnation of left-handedness.

Face it. The Roman Catholic and other hierarchical religions are modeled on father figures, tribe, family and reproduction, held together by arcane procedures and pomp. The reason is to satisfy the societal needs from which the religion evolved. Not your needs. Not ours. We are an irrelevance, an annoyance and not wanted. Endless rationalizing to justify the fit is so much mental self-flagellation. It is undignified.

Some fine day it will be, if ever, when we awaken as one and reject institutions that disparage us as humans and we fully support those that support us.

R. Nelson
 San Francisco

We Fight On

★ On open letter to Frank Bert and Steven Russell:
 Gentlemen:

I would like to thank you both for your support in founding the ARCAIDS Vigil. I say support only to remind the two of you that you weren't alone.

Since Oct. 27, 1985, the ARCAIDS Vigil has matured. It is most unfortunate that there have been many people not capable (for reasons of a personal or health nature) to mature along with us.

As you know, some people have even gone so far as to try to close the Vigil. If memory serves me, you fellahs were two of the first to fall into this category.

Since inception, the ARCAIDS Vigil has not condoned the use of alcohol and illicit or recreational drugs; i.e., speed, heroin, etc. Some people have been asked not to be at the site — "banned" — as a result of their blatant lack of concern for these rules.

Our financial situation has always been solvent, yet there were personal loans made in emergency or crisis to PWARC and PWAs. The majority of these loans are never (or have yet to be) paid back. These people know who they are.

It is a shame I'm sure to feel the remorse that the two groups of these people (some belonging to both groups) must feel and if they don't, "how caring" were they truly.

Gentlemen, not "all good things must come to an end." How dare you, of all people, say the Vigil must be closed. I, personally, since Dec. 16, 1985 know of very little active participation on your part to the ARCAIDS Vigil and its fight in this epidemic. Often that limited participation was self-serving only and

damaging to the Vigil. Are you confused? Also gentlemen, I say to you that our site stays clean and that there have been no health problems. I would invite anyone to come forward with proof that they have been made ill by the presence of the ARCAIDS Vigil. Gentlemen, it seems that you are also not seeing well these days. Our blankets are kept clean and in large plastic garbage cans covered by water repellent tarps so that we may continue to keep ourselves warm. Steve — I am certainly aware of sanitary conditions and problems such as those I encountered at the Folsom Street Hotel where you still reside and I am glad to say that this filth does not exist at the Vigil. Whatever you are taking that makes you see these things, let me know what it is. I want a prescription. Or, is it not prescribed, in which case I pass.

Confronting the issue of our goals having been met, I'd like to ask you:

- Why is there still no definition of "severe ARC" to allow you the resources available to me?
- Why is income only \$15 more per month now than this time last year? Is that sufficient?
- Why are you still being discriminated against in your hotel because of your standing as a PWARC?
- Why are there so many people asking the ARC/AIDS Vigil, daily mind you, "What is ARC?"

In closing, thank you again gentlemen for offering me a place to stay where I have for one year with unconditional love, support and understanding managed to survive.

Again, I'm sorry we've outgrown you as our "media queens" (as you are described to me by Chris Bowman, President of CRIR), as our need for "in-focus" and continued volunteers is ever present in helping us exercise our 1st Amendment rights to protest to our Federal Government their lack of sufficient response to the AIDS epidemic.

In spite of you, we fight on.

Gary Harmon, PWA
 San Francisco

Sts. Peter And John

★ Haven't your readers ever had straight friends, reliable salt-of-the-earth types who they would certainly never invite to a garden party, but who could be relied on to help move furniture? The sort of fellow I have in mind is the red-neck construction foreman — a pretty complete boar, but willing to take charge. You're always uncomfortable with him; he's always uncomfortable with you, but if you can persuade him to do something, you know it will be done.

Well, that's probably a good description of St. Peter. St. Peter was not a gifted student of Jesus. He spent three years as one of the closest confidants of the Prince of Peace, but seemed never to be getting the point. When Jesus was seized in the garden of Gethsemane and the other disciples ran off (including the naked young man in the linen cloth), Peter pulled out his sword and cut off one of the attacker's ears.

No doubt most of us would have wished St. John to be the first pope. But the world isn't composed solely of gay men and lesbians, nor of intellectuals. As important as our moral battles are in the United States and Western Europe to be accepted as full members of our communities, the battle throughout most of human time and place is between life and death, between an imperfect good and a nearly perfect evil. St. Peter's job is to gather and lead the masses of men and women in the universal church, and the masses of men and women are still, unfortunately, peasants and red-necks (like the pope).

The important thing to remember is that while Jesus left the likes of St. Peter in charge, he also called the likes of St. John. St. Peter builds and defends the City of God; St. John plays in it (decorates it — what you will).

Alan French
 San Francisco

Sour Grapes Or Buggered Buns?

★ In response to Mr. Wellington (Dec. 11, B.A.R.) et al;

I have known John Kass for a number of years and have found his honesty and frankness to be very refreshing. I am absolutely convinced that he would never involve himself in something deceptive or deceitful as has been heretofore implied.

The letters I have read in the B.A.R. attacking both John and the contest appear to be nothing short of "sour grapes."

Someone has to win and someone has to lose. The true test of character is if one can accept the loss gracefully.

Let's put the buns bickering to rest.

Steve Brackens
 San Francisco

Reconsider Your Request

★ This letter was sent to George E. Miller, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco 94102:

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am deeply disturbed and offended by your letter to Mayor Dianne Feinstein requesting her assistance to remove the 13-month old ARC/AIDS Vigil from United Nations Plaza.

Let me first remind you that the Board of Supervisors has formally expressed its support for the purposes of this vigil — to bring about a sharp increase in federal support for efforts to respond to one of the most tragic epidemics in this country's history. I believe that the Vigil has an outstanding and problem-free record. And I believe that the Board of Supervisors will continue to support the purpose of the Vigil and its presence in U.N. Plaza.

The Vigil may seem unattractive and undesirable to you. Perhaps before sending your letter to the mayor you should have stopped for a moment to consider the catastrophic impact AIDS has had on San Francisco as a whole, and on the individual lives of thousands of its citizens. Whatever mess is troubling you pales a thousand times by comparison to the suffering caused by this tragedy.

At a time when the National Academy of Sciences report on AIDS has called for a massive increase in federal efforts to prevent and cure AIDS, it is unacceptable that the Vigil should be forced to give up its presence in U.N. Plaza and its goal of pressuring the government to respond to this disease as fully as it should.

It was extremely unfortunate that on the very day that the Academy and Chancellor Krevans released their report showing the failure of the federal government to properly conduct AIDS research at the CDC, you would decide to place pressure on San Francisco government to end the ARC/AIDS Vigil.

Many people in this city are working diligently in an attempt to locate housing for those many people whose limited resources cause them to live surrounding the Civic Center. Perhaps in your role as Regional Director for the Department of Health and Human Services you might call on Washington to provide greater assistance to San Francisco's efforts to locate housing for the homeless.

I do not expect this Board of Supervisors, or the people of San Francisco, to allow the ARC/AIDS Vigil to become victim to the problem of the homeless in the Civic Center.

I urge you to reconsider your request to Mayor Feinstein. The Vigil has every right to its continued existence until such time as the Federal Government makes more meaningful strides to respond to AIDS.

Sincerely,

Harry Britt
Board of Supervisors
San Francisco

Women And Equality

★ Ray O'Loughlin's editorial of Dec. 11 captures a vital, yet often misunderstood, aspect of politics. Because politics does not occur in a vacuum, it is not a two way street.

The challenge to the Women's Training Center's right to exist as a place for women disregards the fundamental inequalities found in every aspect of our society. A male invasion of the Center rests not on any idea of equality but rather on the presumption of male privilege. The precept of the lawsuit is simply this: men will decide for women and men, and women will decide for no one.

Women can — women will — take care of themselves. It is not until women are ready to accept men on terms of equality — not equality before the law, but equality in terms of respect, understanding, and most importantly security — that we will be able to say that women have won their liberation.

Scott Bravmann
Berkeley

Public Support

★ Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your support. After another long delay, Actors' Equity finally heard our appeal on November 21 — via a long-distance, four-way phone hookup that lasted almost three hours. Doug and I were on one end in San Francisco, while Jay Moran from the Equity office in S.F. and Ed Weston from the West Coast regional office in L.A. spoke for their points of view, and the Equity council in New York heard us all.

The meeting was civilized and had all the trappings of standard courtroom drama. A committee had been formed to sift through all the correspondence of the previous two years (as well as all the letters you sent) and produced a digest of what they determined to be the most important elements. After

the material was read, the four of us were allowed five minutes to add to or clarify what had been presented. Then each councilmember was allowed to ask one question of any of us. At the close of the hearing we were each given five minutes for summation, after which the phone connections were disengaged and the council voted on the final decision.

You will be pleased to hear that the \$250 fine originally levied against us was waived. We are, of course, still obliged to comply with Equity rules in the future, but the council encouraged all parties involved in the episode to pledge a commitment to creating fast, workable solutions to similar problems in the future. Councilmembers were conciliatory and pleasant; many told us they had seen the PBS documentary (which had aired the week before the hearing) and congratulated us for our work, adding regrets that the situation with the union had become so inflammatory.

We believe that without your letters and phone calls, the serious nature of the situation would never have become so apparent. A secretary with the union said she had never witnessed such an outpouring from the public over an issue. For that, again, we thank you.

Leland Moss
San Francisco

Support

★ I am angered and outraged at the article "Neiman-Marcus Charged with AIDS Job Bias."

I have worked for Neiman-Marcus for two years, and during this time I have been very surprised and pleased to see the overt interest of Neiman-Marcus — especially Ms. Mendelson — in the support of the gay community, from the Cable Car Awards, the AIDS benefit at Neiman-Marcus, the 22 on the Red, to the daily friendship and support given the full staff.

Please check your past issues and just count the ways Neiman-Marcus and Peggy Mendelson have given support to our community and just wish that the other stores in our area (i.e., Macy's, Magnin, Saks) would show even a small amount of interest in our needs, not just our money.

With thanks to Neiman-Marcus, Peggy Mendelson, and all of our supporters in both the business and personal communities.

Walt Dennis
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: I hope you get the raise.

Ray O'Loughlin

Delta Booking Idea
Is A Stupid Idea

★ I've just read the commentary from "Mr. C. Tolbert" about the Delta Airlines policy and anti-gay issue. I agree that the Delta policy was (is) a terrible injustice. I was shocked and surprised a major airline would deal with the AIDS issue the way they did, and all airlines (especially Delta) cannot afford bad publicity.

However, calling Delta, tying up phone lines, and booking reservations is a stupid way of getting back.

I'd like to ask Mr. Tolbert how he would feel if his Mother was in a serious accident in Macon, GA and the only way to get there fast and safe was on a Delta jet, only to find out the phone was busy and flight was false-full.

Besides, airlines overbook flights! Why? The traveling public overbooks themselves making two to three reservations, causing empty seats. Empty seats mean losing money, losing money means higher ticket prices. The traveling public is the one who pays in the end.

I am a flight attendant for Western Airlines. Western has many, many gay people working for them both on the ground and in the air. We were truly upset with their AIDS policy and how Delta handled things. We as employees did not have a choice with the Delta buyout and hopefully some of the "Western ways" will change some of the "Delta ways." Write a letter to Delta — don't punish Western.

Name Withheld By Request
San Francisco

The Staff Psychologist

★ Now that the Ambush is closed, I suppose the truth should now be told: I was the staff psychologist.

Many of you knew about *Sector Seven* for years, but, what began as a longitudinal study for a renowned institute became psychology's most successful sliding scale group therapy in history.

I'm sorry that we slide of scale. Now I'll probably have to write the textbook.

Les Johnson
San Francisco

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IN MEMORIAM

Take A Poll

★ "Close AIDS Vigil, Founders Urge" in your Dec. 11 headline story. Well, the Vigil's purpose may have been served for them, but there are a lot of brave individuals still out there.

The true motives of the Federal Government should never be doubted. Also, consider the value of education. In fighting AIDS, the value of education has been well proven.

Among other valuable things, the Vigil has given tremendous purpose to a lot of troubled people.

Close the Vigil? Take a poll among the brave people. They are out there right now.

Herb Levy
San Francisco

Thanks For The Help

★ I'd like to take the opportunity to thank several individuals in the gay community who aided me immeasurably in the preparation of my "AIDS and The Arts" piece which appeared in the Dec. 7 Chronicle/Examiner pink section.

There were dozens of men and women who shared their memories with me, who provided me with invaluable leads, who exhibited remarkable generosity in helping me with my work. Primary among them were Wayne Love and Wayne Fleisher of the San Francisco Band Foundation, Perry George and Tim Garner of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Bob Ross of the Bay Area Reporter, John Karr, Adele Prandini and Kris Gannon of Theatre Rhinoceros, Marc Huettis, David Weissman, Robert Pruzan, Jean-Jacques Zenger, Adam Block, Ted Flath, Dan Turner and Philippe Roy.

There are many more, too numerous to list. To all of them, I am indebted. Their strength and compassion in dealing with the AIDS crisis has been a powerful lesson for me.

Edward Guthmann
San Francisco Chronicle
San Francisco

Farewell, Jose!

★ It is with sadness, but with great excitement and anticipation, that after many years of community involvement in San Francisco, I am striking out for the virgin territories of the Southwest. I will be making my home in Phoenix beginning the first of the year.

San Francisco's lesbian and gay community has grown immeasurably since we couldn't even have a drink with our friends in a bar without the fear of being arrested. We as a community have achieved our right to have a say in how our city is managed. All of us, however, must be constantly vigilant to see that our gains are not lost. There are countless new, capable and energetic workers in the community who will guide our growth even further in the years to come.

I am told that in Phoenix the situation is very much as it was here in the late '50s and early '60s and I feel myself challenged by the possibility of helping to bring this city into the '80s.

On December 29 The Galleon will hold a "Widow Norton Hits the Road" party. I hope to see many old and new friends there so that I can express my deep appreciation for all the support I have received from you over the years.

Jose Sarria
The Widow Norton
and everything else

Haas Off Base

★ I was disturbed by the *Opinion* piece I read in the Nov. 26 issue in which James W. Haas decries what he calls "A New Form of Housing Discrimination."

Haas refers to "dramatic changes . . . in San Francisco this past 15 years [that] have affected the composition of the population." He is, of course, correct in observing these changes, but fails to examine how they have come about. San Francisco, like many desirable cities across the country has had an influx of young, single, professional people (Yuppies) who are drawn to what these cities have to offer. These single people, and childless couples often have substantial incomes that enable them to spend large sums for desirable housing. In San Francisco many of these people are gay. Since gay people are less likely to have children, and gay male couples benefit additionally from the fact that men often earn more than women, they are especially likely to have a great deal of disposable income.

Landlords and real estate developers were quick to pick up on this trend. As a result, this city and others have seen a dramatic trend toward removal of poor, working class and single-parent families from previously less desirable, but affordable, housing and the transformation of that housing into units desirable to more affluent professional singles and cou-

ples, including gays. Some of this removal (popularly called gentrification) has been accomplished by legal means. Bribery, coercion, eviction, arson and harassment have also been used. Whatever the means, the result has been the same. Poor people and families have been driven from their homes, and seen those homes converted so as to be unaffordable and/or unsuitable for them. In addition, families have, at times, been subject to illegal discrimination by landlords who do not want children living in their buildings.

This discrimination is not very different from that experienced by gay people. Fortunately for gay people in San Francisco, we have developed a strong political and economic bloc which has gotten anti-discrimination laws enacted and established a power base to protect ourselves in many ways. As a result, gay people are the beneficiaries, rather than the victims, of housing discrimination. We benefit, deliberately or unwittingly, from economic discrimination.

Now, according to Haas, some "activists" are trying to reverse this trend. They want to have the Poly High site set aside for affordable family units. Haas seems to think that this will threaten the opportunities for gay people to live in San Francisco. But if we look at the changes that he acknowledges have taken place recently, it is clear that what these activists really want to do is help moderate income families regain what they have lost, and not lose any more, to gentrification.

It is true that there is not room for everyone to live in the 46 square miles of San Francisco, and more families may mean fewer gay people. But should gay people and straight yuppies be allowed to dominate San Francisco simply because they have more money? I, for one, would not like to see a San Francisco composed solely of young childless professional gay and straight people. I see the benefit of a city with people of many ages, races, classes and lifestyles. We gay people, who have been the victims of so much discrimination, must not use our economic and political power only to help ourselves, but to support anyone who has been hurt by discrimination, so that San Francisco can continue to be home to all who live here.

Jonathan Willner
San Francisco

Mind Over Matter

★ An open letter to Thomas Carroll:

Having come from a family where one side of my house was Roman, I was made to take more seriously my faith, than some cultural Catholics.

The first person of your namesake, St. Thomas Aquinas, clearly defines charity, transubstantiation and the Eucharistic Host of Life.

In deepest sorrow for your pain, I pray and meditate for the enlightenment of all suffering gay people onto the trailways of living compassion. You pain — the same as any non-Roman.

Because, we have been denied the love of God on earth, by the Church, neither can the Church love any more. Purity of heart, was the elevation of life. The most perfect act of Charity, by our living souls and deceased ones. Their spiritual destruction raped everybody.

This mint all people was equal and the consumption of mind and spirit in communion, represents the soul of every participant, including the celebrating church. Churches have notoriously separated themselves from our first benefactor.

In other words we believe as Buddhist, rescuing acts of mind over matter, is a continual rebirth of one from another. This embraces, historically thousands, many times millions of people. Rebirth after rebirth. In other words, Buddha's possible rebirth 340 years later in Jesus, in Gandhi, Reverend Martin Luther King and all other Saints, including Harvey Milk. We should never cease praying for the souls of God on earth. As the Earth Store Teacher, teaches us, who have been called, from our Mother's bosom, Quan Yin Kannon.

May God bless and forgive our separation, from our own bodies. Remember, it was not our choice!

A brother Nomad,

Gene Maxey
San Francisco

PacBell Doesn't Ring

★ Beware — PacBell's system does not work!

I share an apartment and telephone in San Francisco. In October the telephone bill contained several calls to a 976 number. I was at home in Nevada so my roommate paid the bill.

The November bill contained 976 calls to this same 976 number. At the time reported on the bill, I was in Nevada and my roommate was at work.

No one was at that phone!!

We're not the only ones this has happened to! The phone system does not always work — check your bill.

Fred Kelley
San Francisco

No Love Lost

There never was any love lost between Willie Brown and Quentin Kopp, and the recent bitter state Senate election in the 8th district did nothing to help the feelings between the two. Brown and his Democratic allies spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to try to elect Kopp's opponent, Lou Papan, and memories of the campaign apparently run deep.

Senator Kopp told an L.A. Times reporter this week, "I think it is noteworthy that Mr. Brown has neither telephoned nor written me a letter of congratulations or good wishes. I'm not looking for a fight with anybody, but I won't back away from a fight. The speculation is that he has, in the vernacular, advised his confederates that there will be a war on all my legislation."

Kopp, meanwhile, declared war on one of the Speaker's bills, a measure that would enable out-of-state banks such as Citicorp of New York City to buy BankAmerica, parent of Bank of America. Kopp told the Times, "I will fight this bill with all the means and abilities I have." He said that "The Bank of America is a respected San Francisco institution, and here is a San Francisco legislator (Brown) introducing legislation to allow Citicorp of New York City to buy San Francisco's beloved bank. Why? Why?"

Los Angeles, once thought to have the inside track for the '88 GOP National Convention, was notified by the party this week that it was no longer being considered and the choice for the Republicans has now narrowed down to Kansas City and New Orleans. The current favorite for the Democrats is reportedly Houston.

Gay rights groups say that the recent killing of a prominent gay Texas businessman, William Schiffrers, 39, is the latest assault in a dramatic increase in attacks against gays. Schiffrers, who'd been raped, died of smoke inhalation after his body was set on fire. He was found at a rest stop near Kyle, Texas, with his hands bound behind his back.

Officials of gay groups who document violence say the nature of the attack indicated Schiffrers was a "gay-bashing" victim.

In the resort city of Key West, Florida, where a large number of gays and lesbians live (the city recently had a gay mayor) security patrols will increase during the holidays after attacks and taunts on gays increased.

Kevin Berrill of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told reporters last week that publicity about AIDS affecting gays and threatening the general population "has inflamed some people and given them more justification for hatred."

In San Francisco attacks against gays jumped noticeably in 1984-85 and reportedly are up 23 percent this year. In New York City, 351 incidents of attacks against gays have been reported this year, more than double last year's rate, according to the Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

In 1985, 28 percent of gays said their attackers mentioned AIDS. In Atlanta officials of the Atlanta Gay Center estimate at-

tacks are up 40 percent and that organization says "an awful situation has gotten more awful." A 1985 poll of 2,074 gays in eight cities by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force found one in five men and one in 10 women had suffered attacks because of their homosexuality.

In Jackson, Mississippi, the city council voted 4-3 this week to allow the Mississippi Gay Alliance to open an AIDS hospice in the Belhaven Heights area of the city. Some residents had protested, fearing a "health threat and lower property values."

Rita Rockett's Christmas party for Ward 5-A Friday night at the High Chaparral was a huge success with surprise guests John Molinari and Herb Caen stopping by to speak to the crowd and thank Rita for the great work she is doing. Molinari had to be pleased by Caen's prediction that "the next mayor of San Francisco will be an Italian from North Beach."

When the 100th Congress convenes in January, Merced's Rep. Tony Coelho will become the first member of the House from California to hold an elected leadership position in that body. Coelho, a potential Speaker, was chosen by the Democratic caucus this week to be the House majority whip. Former Rep. John McFall of Manteca was the whip during 1972-76, but in those days the post was appointed by the Speaker.

Coelho, who has a lot of friends in San Francisco, has served only four terms in the House and his election to the No. 3 House job represents a spectacular rise for the 44-year-old congressman.

City Hall watchers convinced that outgoing Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas is thinking of running for mayor. "He's showing up at political meetings and places he's not been seen in 10 years," commented one observer. About the best statement on Boas' administrative talents that I can think of is that it wasn't long ago that the largest department he administered, the health department, was taken away from him by the voters!!

Overheard at the Alliance's Comstock Club party: "Louise Renne must be up to something. She finally brought her husband to a gay function." The reply from a man standing nearby: "That's her husband? All the time I thought she was married to Allan Johnson."

Insurance

(Continued from page 3)

ual states," Schatz said, "to pass these guidelines into law. Insurance companies normally go along with the commissioners policy—or at least they say they will. This also provides a vehicle by which gay men and lesbians can complain to their state insurance commissioners and they have a remedy."

He concluded, "While we realize that these guidelines may not eliminate discrimination, they are a deterrent. This was passed by the commissioners because they feel that discrimination does exist."



Ruth Brinker, Rita Rockett and Sup. John Molinari listen to Herb Caen at the High Chaparral.
(Photo: S. Martin)

Tom Isenberg, long-time gay Republican activist and founder of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR) passed away last week after a long illness.

I'm certainly among those who think the boys at the White House are covering up something big (particularly Don Regan — now there's an arrogant bastard!).

But I'm wondering if the Democrats couldn't do a little better at hiding their obvious glee at Ronald Reagan's comeuppance.

In Sacramento the gossips are saying that state treasurer Jesse Unruh, due to be sworn into a fourth term on Jan. 5, is seriously ill with incurable bone cancer. Unruh's long-time

assistant, Larry Margolis said last week that the 64-year-old treasurer is experiencing slurred speech and finds it difficult to leave his Marina del Rey home. "He's fighting it," Margolis said, "it's not easy to say how long he has. (His condition) is being maintained. It's not going to be cured."

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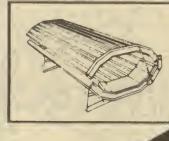
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Brian Jones

Sittin' On a Ritz

I found myself in the Valley of the Shadow of Death the other day, which is to say, I was in the Church of Rome. I do not call the Church of Rome the catholic church because it is not a catholic church.

The word "catholic" means "universal!" This old whore of a church is not universal. With the arrogance of an aristocrat whose bloodline has long ago faded with sin, it claims universality. Its claim has become more exaggerated through the centuries in proportion to its own decay—morally, spiritually and politically.

The particular branch of the Church of Rome in which I found myself was St. Boniface in the Tenderloin. I was shocked by what I saw.

Here were people openly worshipping idols. They had their plaster Jesus and their plaster Mary and a half dozen other

plaster saints around the altar, and the faithful walked right up to the Blessed Virgin and addressed Her one-on-one. Cure for a sick relative? No problem. Better job? Go thou and sin no more.

Me, I wanted a Hamilton Beach blender, but not being one of the faithful, I didn't know which icon was in charge of the Small Appliances Department.

It says right there in the Bible that idol-worshipping is a double-capital-N "No-No." But here in the Church of Rome the faithful were praying to plaster saints.

To some extent this is a catholic church because it has stolen from everybody.

The Blessed Virgin Mother is the Mother Earth Goddess with a new hair-do. And Mother Mary is in charge here. She ranks ahead of Jesus two-to-one in the only Catholic opinion poll which counts: sales of plastic dashboard ornaments.

Everything sits on a Ritz, including the theology of the Church of Rome.

So-called Christmas is another example. Jesus was born in late April or early May, according to Matthew, who walked with Him. The Church of Rome ripped off the Roman Saturnalia and called it their own.

At one point during the mass I attended, they drank the Blood and ate the Body of Jesus. I passed. Flesh and blood are not on my diet.

Communion is an obvious throwback to human sacrifice—a rude practice of almost all stone-age peoples.

They had a priest's helper there who told each of the faithful, "The body of Christ!" as he plopped a wafer into their mouths. If he hadn't said it, I wouldn't have known. It looked like a Ritz cracker to me.

Everything sits on a Ritz, including the theology of the Church of Rome.

The Church of Rome believes that the wafer does become the body of

Jesus and that the wine does become the blood of Jesus, at the moment of blessing. This is something quite demonstrably false. Yet, tens of thousands of people have died in wars over just this point. It is silly, and sad, and cruel—just like the Church of Rome.

It is in the same vein that the Pope has declared God's view of gay and lesbian people. We're no good, says God, As Told to the Bishop of Rome.

Boy, do I have good news! There is no Pope. There is no Catholic Church.

In the Fourteenth Century, there were two Popes. Each Pope excommunicated the other, then excommunicated all of the faithful who believed in the other Pope.

No Pope. No church.

In the Seventeenth Century, the Church of Rome sent Galileo to purgatory, where he stayed until 1984. His crime? Galileo said the earth revolves around the sun.

So it goes.

Who are these people? What is this church?

Why do we pay any attention to them?

They don't know any better. One hopes we do.

Brian Jones' column appears every other week in the Bay Area Reporter.



Gone but for Christmas!

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Earlier this year, immediately following one of the most delightful Thanksgivings I can remember, I was confronted all at once by a double loss. I returned from the River, where I had spent the holiday, to a phone call from my aunt informing me that my grandmother had died a day earlier. Two days later, I learned that one of my best friends, Michael, had succumbed to AIDS after a two-year battle.

Neither death was unexpected. "Mom," my grandmother, was 91 and had suffered a stroke earlier this year. After a long and happy life (for the most part), she was more than ready to meet her maker. And Michael, who had been relentlessly assaulted by an assortment of ailments in the previous few months, clearly had no strength left to fight. Unlike my grandmother, Michael was unwilling to die and hadn't even considered the possibility until the very end. But death claimed him nevertheless.

Despite my acknowledgement of the inevitable, still I railed when Mom and Michael died. It didn't seem fair, especially during the holiday season. Yet few of us have been untouched by loss and grief. So many have died in the last few years that it seems we live in a land of the doomed, surrounded only by death and sorrow.

For Mom and Michael At Christmas

Andrew Holleran says it better in a recent issue of *Christopher Street* "Okay, by now we are so accustomed to obituaries they have become a literary genre. Even so, Cosmo's death horrified. What a waste! His death does not illuminate anything that leaves us morally edified, or superior, or enlightened—it was just part of the vast human waste that is occurring; just mean and nasty."

I think I was particularly upset by these deaths because my levitating of Mom and Michael was so unsatisfactory. I hadn't seen Mom in over a year, not since her 90th birthday party. Even the letter I wrote her just before Thanksgiving didn't reach her in time. Furthermore, I couldn't even get to the funeral in Florida. I did manage to get a ticket on Thanksgiving Sunday, the busiest day of the year, but when I got to the airport, I learned that all flights to Houston, my connection point, were delayed indefinitely due to fog. By the time the fog had cleared, it was too late to make my connection or any subsequent flight, which were all booked anyway. Livid with rage and frustration, I had no choice but to return home.

Saying good-bye to Michael was no more satisfactory. He had

(Continued on page 17)

Jellies & Bellies

All Kinds of Goodies Available As Polk Revs Up for Holiday

by Charles Linebarger

Polk Strasse, as some gays used to call Polk Street, was swathed in red and gold holiday colors last week and the shops were putting their best foot forward in many window displays.

At City Sweets, 1200 A Polk Street, manager Paul Goodfader put the emphasis on the nine-year-old shop's Christmas selection of chocolates. Here you can find chocolate truffles decorated with bright sugar wreaths for \$2, for \$3.50 you can pick up a choco-truffle shaped like a critter, pandas, penguins, pink pigs, and of course snowmen.

City Sweets also has a huge selection of jelly bellies, they're smaller than jelly beans. Also old-fashioned candy sticks, gummies, and candy canes. The shop's Christmas specialty is an \$80 bottle of chocolate corks from France, which is on sale for \$40.

From sweets to scents. Denis Dumont is the owner of the Parfumerie at 1433 Polk. "This is a traditional parfumerie, what you would find in Paris or London," explained Dumont. "This is neither a boutique nor a counter at Walgreens."

Dumont not only makes up individualized essences for his clients, he also makes discreet little fabric containers filled with scented things. His holiday specialty is a Christmas scent made of 200 different plant ingredients. For \$3.95 you can have an ounce of it in a little silver shopping bag tied with a ribbon.

Headlines is the big gay department store at 1217 Polk. It has everything from clothes to clocks, as well as an extravagant

selection of Christmas gifts and cards. This is for the man who has everything. Check out the battery-powered sushi and dinosaurs.

A trip to Headlines would not be complete without a quick visit to the greeting card stands. Whether you're looking for naked bodybuilders in a Santa's cap or Dorothy and the Tin Man they've got it.

The Cake Gallery at 1045 Polk is in its 12th year. It is known for its sexually explicit candy genitalia, and tit and cock cakes. You won't find these at Macy's or Woolworth's. There are also less suggestive Christmas wreaths and Santa cakes.

A 10-inch cake with choice of flavor and filling weighs in at \$22.95. For skimpier budgets, one can take home a solid chocolate dildo for \$12 for seven ounces, or a smaller size for less price.

Looking for that special gift? Why not browse through the select stock at Le Salon, now in its 20th year, at 1118 Polk. Be sure to glance at the new calendars aimed at the gay male. Some of the items include Colt for \$10, Colt's Annual Man Calendar for \$10, Colt's Leather Calendar for \$8, Tom of Finland's for \$8.50, Chippendale's for \$5.95, and Landmark's for \$8.95. Store manager Jim Welch recommends Landmark's for men who want something slightly less explicit for public display, but aren't ready for Audubon's birds yet.

On Sunday, Dec. 21, Le Salon will give away several 6-inch stockings filled with toys and games. Applicants may pick up entry blanks for the stockings at the store.

Remember Gramophone? It used to be on Castro as well as at 1538 Polk until tripling rents and falling foot traffic forced it out. "This is the only store we have left," said manager Lee Lewis.

CD's (compact discs) and videos are big items now, instead of the magazines that used to pay the rent. For the holidays they have two Barbra Streisand videos made of recordings of TV specials she did in the 1960's. For \$29.98 one can get either *Color Me Barbra* or *My Name Is Barbra*. A total of \$49.98 buys both.

The San Francisco Popcorn Works started business one year ago at 1542 Polk. It is a place with a lot of flavor. "We make about 60 flavors (of popcorn)," said owner Tony Adler, "all natural. We use sweet butter and all sorts of tropical nuts and can-dies."

A regular-sized bag of seasoned (cheese and herbs) popcorn goes for \$1.35 while \$1.95 buys candy flavors like Bing Cherry and Chocolate Mousse. For \$2.50 you get the works, or Confection Plus, things like Alcatraz Rocky Road and Blueberry Cheesecake popcorn, goodies with nuts, jelly beans, etcetera.

Only a gay neighborhood could find a place for all within six blocks of each other. •



Le Salon's X-rated display. (Photo: Savage Photography)



Gramophone's music display.
(Photo: Savage Photography)

Christmas Day & New Year's Eve

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NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

Is 'Ex-Gay' Gay Again?

READING, PA — According to Colin Cook, gay men and lesbians can be "converted" to straight sex. Cook founded the Quest Learning Center, an ex-gay "ministry," as well as the group, Homosexuals Anonymous, to make his point.

However, the darling of the Fundamentalists had a little problem: he couldn't keep his hands off men.

Amid allegations of sexual improprieties with counselees, Cook resigned his position as director of the Quest Learning Center. Cook sent a letter to Neal Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, the primary financial backer of the Center. Cook sent his resignation in a response to a letter sent

to Wilson by Dr. Ron Lawson, a sociology professor at Queens College in New York.

Lawson said he had interviewed 14 men who had complained about intense sexual pressure every time Cook interviewed them. According to Lawson, 13 of the men interviewed said Cook would begin every session with a "long erotic crotch-to-crotch hug, during which time he would get an erection."

Lawson said the only person who didn't get the attention of Cook was a man in his 50's, who according to Lawson, "was probably out of the range of attractiveness as far as he was concerned."

—Au Courant of Philadelphia

Lambda Challenges Green Bay Paper

GREEN BAY—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has joined Wisconsin attorney Mark Borns as co-counsel in a \$7.5 million lawsuit against the Gannett newspaper publishers. The suit alleges discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the denial of the state constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Lambda is the nation's oldest and largest gay and lesbian legal rights organization.

The case arose when Jay Hathaway and his organization, Among Friends, tried to place an advertisement in the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Among Friends publishes a monthly newsletter with special outreach to rural lesbians and gay men. On two separate occasions the paper rejected the advertisement on the grounds that it was aimed at an audience having a specific sexual preference. The paper objected to the terms "lesbian" and "gay" which were contained in the ad.

The proposed advertisements read: "Gay-lesbian resources, referrals, networks for rural Wisconsin" and "Gay-lesbian referrals for medical, legal and professional assistance for rural Wisconsin."

"The newspaper's refusal to print the advertisements presents an exciting opportunity to test the parameters of the Wisconsin statute," stated Paula L. Etelbrick, Lambda staff attorney.

Wisconsin is the only state to have amended its civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

—From a Lambda News Release

West Germans Worry As AIDS Cases On The Rise

BERLIN — West German health officials are trying to remain calm, but one fact is worrying them: AIDS cases are on the rise in West Germany.

Reported AIDS cases in Germany are still not as high as the United States, but 365 Germans have died from the disease and at least 771 people are carrying the virus. However, government officials were quick to point out that AIDS cases were incomplete because only cases showing full clinical symptoms were reported.

Analysts were particularly worried about the increase in the number of women AIDS carriers, up to 44 cases. Five babies had been infected in the womb.

—Agence France Presse

Minnesota Gov. Inks New Gay Rights Legislation

ST. PAUL — Attention out there, George Deukmejian: who says government can't work a little for the people when it comes to gay and lesbian rights? Apparently, Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich thinks gays and lesbians are important.

Perpich very quietly signed an important piece of legislation which Deukmejian should take a lesson from these days. Perpich signed an executive order which prohibits the state from firing, harassing or otherwise discriminating against its employees who are homosexual or who have AIDS.

The order requires state agencies to provide "a work environment free of harassment," bars discrimination because of AIDS and forbids deprivation of any other freedoms except for explicit or public health reasons.

—The Associated Press

Gay Bashing? Police Not Sure

AUSTIN, TX — Gay activists say an Austin man's killing may be another example of "gay bashing." Police are not so sure.

Investigators say the killing of Edward Schiesser, 39, whose partially clothed and bound body was found in his burning car along Interstate 35 in Kyle earlier this month, are considering gay bashing as only one possibility.

Jeff Gutierrez of the Gay and Lesbian Service Center in Los Angeles said the rest stop where Schiesser's body was found was known as a place where sexual activity took place.

The dead man's business partner and an ex-roommate said Schiesser was gay, but not the sort of person who would cruise a rest stop.

Gutierrez, whose group is collecting information about attacks on homosexuals, says gay bashing has been "going on for centuries" but has increased as public fear has grown around the AIDS crisis.

Kyle Police Chief Bill Jones said gay bashing might be a reason for the attack and agreed that the rest stop is known for its sexual activity.

"It's got a reputation for that. So do other places. It's also got a reputation for people stopping there to use the restroom," Jones said.

—Craig C. McDaniel

Minnesota Spas Want Only 'Growing Christians'

MINNEAPOLIS — A chain of six Minnesota health clubs has for several years been in violation of state law by refusing to hire anyone "deemed antagonistic to the Gospel's moral standards," namely homosexuals and unwed couples. The Minnesota Human Rights Department has been investigating Sports and Health Club, Inc. since 1978.

The company argued that their practices of promoting only "growing Christians" to management positions was protected by the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion. However, the Minnesota State Supreme Court rejected SHC, Inc.'s arguments. The company refused to change its hiring practices until March of 1986 when a County District Court judge ordered the company to pay fines of \$300 per day until the violations are taken care of.

The company owes over \$40,000 in fines. Owner Arthur Owens plans on selling his chain, (Continued on next page)

World News

(Continued from previous page)

but he and other operators still face nearly 100 charges of discrimination, according to the State Attorney General.

—The New York Times

Stock Scandal Possible For Drug Company

DALLAS—The stock of Dallas-based Carrington Laboratories has fallen dramatically this month after the Securities and Exchange Commission asked the company for information about its work on a drug that may be used to treat AIDS.

Company officials blame some stockholders who could, through a complex financial maneuver, profit from a fall in the share price. Those stockholders, Carrington President Clinton Howard says, are trying to "destroy the product (the AIDS drug) so they can make a measly profit."

Dallas Times Herald columnist Irwin Frank reported that Carrington's stock fell 4 1/4 points Nov. 17 after the SEC request and had fallen 2 3/4 points the week before. It closed Nov. 19 at \$18.50 a share.

He said unfavorable stories in Barron's caused much of the drop in share price.

He said the stories were based on information provided by the investors trying to drive down the price of the stock. Other information was given to the Food and Drug Administration, he said.

Carrington was formerly called Ava Cosmetics and then Avacare, which made products from the aloe vera plant. It developed a drug called Carrisyn, which the company says might be useful in treating AIDS and other viral diseases.

—Craig C. McDaniel

Russians Work On Synthetic Vaccine For AIDS Virus

MOSCOW—Could a synthetic vaccine be developed for AIDS? Russian scientists are crossing their fingers and hoping so. During some studies at the Moscow Institute For Immunology, Soviet scientists have detected and synthesized the most active fragments of the AIDS Virus protein. The body reacts to them by producing antibodies which help determine the disease.

Prof. Rakhim Khaibov said that synthesized peptide fragments work virtually faultlessly. However, Khaibov also said that the reaction to the peptide fragments was the same as to inactivated viruses now used for detecting the disease.

"The diagnostic sets based on inactivated viruses are not free of the potential biological danger during their production. The viruses for them are to be grown in labs and there is no absolute guarantee that everything would be well. Synthetic peptides are harmless."

However, Soviet researchers believe that the peptides could serve as a basis for developing synthetic vaccines against AIDS.

—Tass



Hippler

(Continued from page 14)

decided a month before his death to return home to Long Island to some sort of long-term care facility there. Before he left, I tried to visit him in the hospital one last time, but he was not there. His brother had taken him out for a few hours.

Consequently, the last message I had from him was a short speech he left on my answering machine. I don't remember the exact words, but the gist of the message was that he loved me and did not want me to worry about not saying goodbye, "for I've had enough tearful farewells to last me a lifetime." It was all very sweet but very sad.

So what else is new? The picture isn't pretty, but it hasn't been for a long time, and one could go nuts if one wanted by dwelling on the situation. So I try to think of other things as much as possible. As I wrote to a writer friend who was concerned that the sheer magnitude of all this dying was obliterating his sense of humor, "Misery and despair are always with us somewhere, of course, but it is possible to look around, or perhaps beyond that. I try very hard to be funny as often as possible."

sible, especially when I write, in order to give other people as well as myself some sense of joy, of hope. I try not to be callous or flippant, and on a regular basis I will write something maudlin, pathetic, or 'heartwarming' on purpose, but on the whole I try to let the humor predominate. We need it so much now."

I have another friend who says something like, "Writing about anything other than AIDS during the epidemic, especially something funny, is like holding a tea party on the Titanic as the ship goes down."

But I disagree. For one thing,

I don't believe our ship is sinking.

(I'm such a fucking Pollyanna at times, I make even myself nauseous.)

Trouble is, although I find it easy to dispense advice like this, I find it much more difficult to follow. There is not a whole hell of a lot funny about cancelling the Smithsonian subscription that I bought my grandmother for Christmas, for instance, or crossing Michael off my Christmas card list. But even I have learned over the years to roll with the punches and to accept (sometimes) the dictates of fate. There is really little else I can do.

Consequently, I will celebrate this Christmas by flying to Washington, D.C. to be with my

sisters, who will share my grief for Mom and understand my grief for Michael. There, reassured by familiar, beloved, and enduring family rituals, death and sorrow won't matter so much, and I'll be able to remember Mom and Michael with joy instead of sadness.

Then, with any luck at all, within a week I'll be laughing again.

Those of you who have suffered a similar loss or losses this year might be interested in an effort called the Poppy Project. Created by San Franciscans who have lost friends or lovers to AIDS, the project's aim is to plant poppy seeds on hillsides throughout the city "as a tribute to the courage of those who face the crisis within our community" and as a reminder "that there is hope, life, love, and spirit" in San Francisco. For more information, call Rob or Bob at 864-1141.

Non-Gay Rabbi Honored For Work With Gays

Rabbi Janet Ross Marder of Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim in West Hollywood has been named the recipient of the 1987 Lazarus Award for her work reconciling the Jewish and gay/lesbian communities as well as enriching the spirituality of lesbian and gay Jews. The first non-gay person to receive the award, Rabbi Marder will be honored at a dinner to which the public is invited on Saturday, Jan. 24, 1987, at the Hyatt on Sunset in West Hollywood.

As spiritual leader of one of four accredited temples in the country with a focused outreach within the gay and lesbian community, Rabbi Marder has written and spoken widely of her congregation's unique contributions to her own spirituality and that of Reform Judaism.



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This is your guide to rewarding Holiday Shopping! Patronize these merchants when looking for services, a place to eat or even a getaway weekend. You will enjoy your shopping even more knowing that you are supporting the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in our fight against the spread of AIDS.

These San Francisco merchants have pledged a percentage of their profits between November 27 and December 26 to support the Foundation's educational and social service programs.

Look for the Participating Merchant posters that will be in the store windows. Show your goodwill and shop with them during the holiday season (and beyond). And while you're there, thank them for helping in the fight against AIDS.

FOR YOUR FREE PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS DIRECTORY call 863-AIDS



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HIDDEN GARDENS
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Seasons Greetings

BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE SHOPPING TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION.

CDC

(Continued from page 1)

Actually, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal on Dec. 12, of the six senior scientists who started with the CDC's AIDS Program Laboratory in 1983, five have quit. Of five more who joined the lab in 1984, one is gone, one is leaving soon, and two others say they are looking for other jobs.

The committee's report which was completed last week, after six weeks of investigation, called on the CDC's AIDS Program to separate under different management chiefs its basic scientific research from the epidemiological work it does. It also called on the CDC to search for an "esteemed research scientist" to lead basic research.

The investigation of the CDC was requested by Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.). But trouble at the AIDS lab was first reported last August by the Miami Herald.

On the charges of tampering with experiments, the panel concluded, "There was no obvious pattern to the incidents (which occurred through 1983 and up until October, 1986); they did not appear to target either particular avenues of research or individuals. The incidents were not confined to AIDS experiments."

The panel also concluded that "in no case was experimental work seriously disrupted, experimental results seriously delayed, or significant resources lost... It seems that an environment of distrust and dislike may exist between selected individuals and

this may underlie some tampering."

However, according to the account in the Wall Street Journal, in the summer of 1984, a noted virologist at the lab, V.S. Kalanaraman, ordered his colleagues' experiments destroyed because they were working with cultures of the French LAV virus rather than with a sample he had isolated. His colleagues were away at the time. Instead of being disciplined, the researcher was promoted and made supervisor of the unit.

The issue of suppression of data arose over work done at the lab which showed that a common spermicide was an effective killer of the AIDS virus in the laboratory. Dr. James Curran, director of the AIDS Program Laboratory, had originally nixed the idea of

the CDC testing the AIDS-fighting abilities of nonoxynol-9. Eventually, staff people at the lab did the research which proved the spermicide's effectiveness against AIDS. By December 1984, a paper was ready for publication announcing this.

Curran again balked. According to the Wall Street Journal, Bruce Voeller, a Los Angeles biologist and gay rights activist who had originally pushed for the research on nonoxynol-9, is quoted as saying that Curran held up the spermicide paper because he was embarrassed at the success of the tests after having opposed them and because the administrator was "extremely careful to stay on the right side of the (Reagan) administration's sex-phobic marching orders."

A year later Curran had the

paper, much shortened and revised, published as a letter to the British medical journal, *Lancet*. While the National Academy of Sciences panel found no suppression of evidence it did state, "Given the brevity of the letter (to *Lancet*) and the fact that additional data were not included, it is not clear why the revision required six months, and clearance required seven weeks."

The three experts who scrutinized the CDC's AIDS Program Laboratory were Dr. Julius Krevans, chancellor of the University of California at San Francisco, Dr. Robert W. Berliner, former dean of medicine at Yale University and former director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Bernadine Healy, chair of the Cleveland Clinic Research Institute.



(Photo: Gypsy Ray)

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State Still Balks At Safe Sex Ed.

Hospice Care Funds Also Jeopardized

by Marv. Shaw

Explicit language and pictures in an intended safe sex guidelines publication, the use of state money for nursing care of AIDS patients, and a change in the state law pertaining to licensing such facilities occupied the attention of the state AIDS Advisory Committee at its meeting Friday, Dec. 12, in Redwood City, reported San Mateo County AIDS coordinator Ed Hilton.

Despite the recommendation of U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koop and the National Institute of Health for immediate implementation of sex education for school children, the sexual vernacular and illustrations used in a proposed safe sex pamphlet for statewide distribution caused Gov. George Deukmejian to reject it. The Advisory Committee recommended that the booklet be revised by its task force.

The committee also heard a recommendation that unprotected fellatio be removed from the list of unsafe sex practices, but no action was taken on that matter. The recommendation was based on data from recent studies indicating the improbability of AIDS being so transmitted.

It was revealed that \$775,000 had been set aside for the provision of nursing beds throughout the state but that \$130,000 of this money was set to revert to the general fund. Because in the view of some, the guidelines for proper dispersal of the money have not been clearly set, some of it might not be used within this fiscal year. The reason cited was the need for a study of the costs of providing such nursing beds.

Committee member Bruce Decker objected to this probable loss, pointing out that such a facility as the ELLIPSE hospice, which had been dedicated that morning, is exactly the kind of care unit which should be allotted money.

A recent change in state law requires that a 90-day period between application and completion of licensing be observed for such proposed nursing facilities. Ed Hilton and Chris Coppola, ELLIPSE director, sought to obtain a waiver in order that the recently dedicated hospice in Redwood City can be opened by its target date of Jan. 15.

Though the objective of the new law, to control the proliferation of nursing facilities, was recognized, it was the position of Hilton and Coppola that the ELLIPSE hospice would constitute a model and should be granted

certification in a shorter time than 90 days.

There was no action taken by the Advisory Committee on obtaining a waiver. Hilton and Coppola will go to Sacramento to get the assistance of such legislators as Assemblyman Art Agnos and Sen. Milton Marks.

Cable Car Awards Entry Deadline

Cable Car Awards organizers have announced that the deadline for submissions for awards for posters and photography is Monday, Jan. 5. All submissions can be delivered to the Bay Area Reporter offices, 1528 15th Street, at Mission, in San Francisco.

UCSF

(Continued from page 2)

show that suppressor T-cells from the same person work better than cultured cells from someone else.

The findings support a theory proposed in 1983 by Levy and John Ziegler, MD, UCSF professor of medicine at the affiliated Veterans Administration Medical Center and director of the AIDS Clinical Research Center at UCSF, (*Lancet*, July 9, 1983). They wrote that AIDS is an opportunistic infection, and will only cause disease in an individual if his or her immune system has been severely weakened in some way, as by a chronic infection. Levy says, can keep the virus under control control, as evidenced by the subjects described in this study.

The research by the UCSF team was sponsored by the University of California Systemwide Task Force on AIDS.

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Blue Christmas

How To Prevent Sinking Into A Battle Against Holiday Depression

by Jay Newquist

'Tis the season to be jolly. But for many, the holidays mean only depression. Figures show that at this time of the year, gay people tend to commit suicide at a rate higher than the national average. The season can be especially harsh for gay and lesbian youth.

The straight world celebrates the traditional family circle at Christmas—mom, dad, the kids, the dog, the house, the station wagon—while experts report the gay community is largely overlooked and feels alienated from the mainstream. Some are prone to take drastic measures when caught in that bind.

"There's a very real feeling that homosexuals don't measure up, or fit into the classical concept of the family unit," says Greg Day of the Larkin Street Youth Center. "We feel estranged, that there's no place for us. Our homosexuality isn't accepted in most instances in family society."

Psychologist Peter Goldblum called the Christmas season symbolic of the isolation from the family felt by many gay men and lesbian women. This alienation

may be merely geographical, he said, but it is often deeper when gay people are rejected by their own families because of their sexual orientation.

"A lot of gay people look around during the holidays and they perceive that everyone else is happy," Dr. Goldblum said, "and sometimes their thinking gets so clouded they think they're the only ones who aren't happy."

He stressed that many gays feel they have to work hard to find activities during the holidays, fight



Greg Day.

(Photo: M. Hicks)

back against depression and share the mutual feeling "that others are in the same boat."

Dr. Goldblum, who has a private practice and is affiliated with the AIDS Health Project, said it was helpful if gays could recog-

nize their depression, especially during the holidays, and to seek professional help if they experience despair and desperation, and general loss of interest in life.

He said some of the following guidelines could indicate that person was at risk and needed professional counseling:

- Emotional reactions that interfere with daily functioning, excessive reactions for the circumstance;
- Disturbance of sleep patterns for a week;
- Change in eating habits, weight loss, weight gain;
- Drug use to ease the hurt;
- Distorted thinking and perception.

"The key to suicidal thinking is the perception that the future holds no hope and one is powerless to affect it," Dr. Goldblum said, indicating that the added stress of AIDS or ARC in gay people is an extra heavy burden.

He felt anti-depressant drug therapy was often effective. But he recommended the first step against the threat of suicide was reaching out to other gays. "Let people know how you feel, what your symptoms are, and if it doesn't help, seek professional guidance," he said.

Jim Fishman of Operation Concern said many gay people experienced noticeable confusion during the Christmas and New Year's season because they were ambivalent about their desire to be included in family activities. "The gay community can provide an alternate family for them, but it doesn't always do that," he said.

He added that many gay men and lesbian women don't know whether to return home at year's end, whether they should bring their lovers or whether they should come out to their families.

Fishman said the community as a whole could better deal with holiday depression and the threat of suicide if they had a battle plan to get through the season. "It's

helpful to enter a lot of structured activities like volunteer work," he said, indicating the resources like friends, therapy and crisis intervention should be used.

At the Larkin Street Youth Center, Greg Day reported the added symbolism of Christmas as a parent-child event in the U.S. was particularly painful for younger gays and lesbians in the Polk Street area, recent arrivals who abandoned home—or were abandoned—to come to San Francisco.

The seasonal acts of suicide are difficult to measure statistically, but they are already high for the general population, higher for adult gays and lesbians, and higher still for gay youth under 18, which is twice the national average for non-gay youth.

"The population is in a crisis state," Day said. "It's hard to deal with it when the kid doesn't know about his future, and the longer he spends on the street the more damage is done to his mental state."

Day reported a significant number of gay and lesbian youth who left home for San Francisco's mecca decide to return home at Christmas to give it another chance. "There are fewer kids on the streets at this time because they believe they'll be treated right at home because it's a holiday," he said.

"After the first of the year, they're right back here."

Day said that more than half of the 2,000 youths living in the streets are gay, and now more than ever they talk suicide. A support network of services to rescue youth from the streets, answer basic needs and instill survival skills is similar to the steps to rescue gay adults from the seasonal pressure as well as the regular pressure to adapt in a non-gay world.

"We're told we're not important, it's a slap in the face," Day said. He concluded that the gay and lesbian community was its own best resource to ride out any crisis.

Bingo Meets Goal For Coming Home

This week (Dec. 18) the Thursday night Coming Home Hospice Bingo will be celebrating that their \$45,000 dollar goal has been reached. Thirty five dedicated volunteers and hundreds of enthusiastic Bingo players can be proud of the \$45,000 dollar donation, which represents, 10 percent of all monies raised for the project so far. The renovation of the convent at Most Holy Redeemer will result in a hospice facility that

will care for those with terminal illnesses, especially those with AIDS.

The final \$25,000 dollar installment of the pledged \$45,000 will be presented on Dec. 28 after the 10 a.m. service at Most Holy Redeemer Church at 18th and Diamond. The true spirit of Christmas giving will be celebrated with a special Bingo night of caroling and musical presentations at this Thursday's Bingo, Dec. 18. Game doors open at 6 p.m., for a Bingo with over \$3,000 dollars in prizes! Come and celebrate the season of giving at Coming Home Hospice Bingo. ●

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Just Whistle

by Carmen Vasquez

The Whistle. Happy memory or a curse? Whistle blowing is no simple thing to pin down in Western society. There's the lunch whistle for workers at giant production plants (I actually only heard them in movies) when everybody stopped working and pulled out those metal lunch boxes with the shiny red apple, poor boy hero and thermos full of coffee.

There's the "Whistle while you work" theme, conjured to demonstrate how fun work can be, a sham if I ever heard one. There's the end of the day whistle, real fun. There's the referee's whistle on a foul or a fumble, fun only if it goes our way.

There's the unmistakably lustful notes of a whistle for the guy or gal with that certain walk moving down the block. Also real fun. There's Lauren Bacall reminding Bogey that he knows how to whistle, doesn't he? Most fun of all.

But associating whistles with fun is something only the good guys do. For the burglar, purse snatcher, rapist, homophobic basher, the old, simple whistle might as well be a siren, a spot on center stage, the panic button. A curse. Linking whistle blowing with the exposure of wrongdoing is a concept old enough to now be an accepted and broadly understood saying as "blowing the whistle" on your crooked boss.

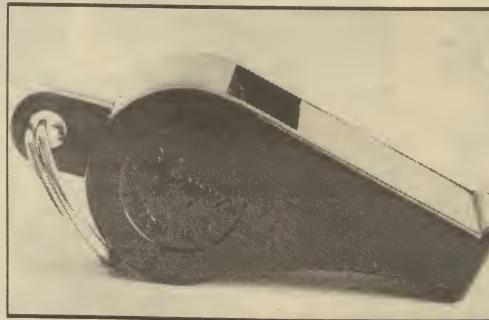
Who, though, gave ordinary citizens the power of the whistle as a sophisticated form of community self-defense? Well, we hope that someday Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and the whistle will be one and the same in the hearts and minds of San Franciscans, but we didn't invent the idea. As far as we know, the Chinese did.

Immigrant Chinese workers were a cheap labor pool for building the railroads that first connected the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Often the targets of racial violence in their workplace and in their settlements, the Chinese used the whistle as a way of alerting their people to an impending assault or of summoning help when attacked.

In the early 1970s, the women's movement advocated the use of the whistle as a self-defense tool in organized efforts to prevent rape. This modern-day popularization of the whistle was quickly adopted by other crime prevention groups, and in 1978, San Francisco's gay community took a page from Chinese-American history when a handful of individuals armed with whistles dubbed themselves The Butterfly Patrol and took to the streets to blow the whistle on violent homophobes. That's how (CUAV) and our whistle story came to be.

On Saturday, Dec. 20, CUAV will add yet another chapter to whistle lore as our volunteers don white caps, grab their whistles and go hither and yonner all over the streets of this fabled city doing the Whistle Hop!

What's a Whistle Hop? Come and see. Look for our volunteers at your favorite bar or Muni stop on Dec. 20. If you've got a whistle, blow it. If you don't, then line up for some lessons. Remember, the defense of our community is every individual's responsibility. Having fun and taking care of each other can be done. Please join us on Dec. 20.



Contrary to the holiday spirit, this December has seen many incidents of anti-gay violence and it is only the second week of the month at this writing. Below are some examples.

Quick Hits

LARKIN/SUTTER

The victim was walking to the supermarket at Bush and Larkin. He passed the first suspect on Polk Street. After answering a question from suspect 1 the victim continued up Polk St. Suspect 1 yelled derogatory remarks at the victim as he walked away.

At Sutter/Larkin the victim felt suspect 2 grab him from behind. He was then thrown to the ground and beaten by suspect 2 while suspect 1 looked on. The victim managed to escape and ran to the store where he found a police officer. Both suspects fled. After telling his story to the officer, the victim was told that next time he shouldn't walk with such a swish.

3RD AVE./GEARY

The two victims are straight men who were at a bar on Geary Street. After leaving the bar they were approached by the two suspects who stated they were from Dublin, Ireland and asked where

'For the burglar, purse snatcher, rapist, homophobic basher, the old simple whistle might as well be a siren, a spot on center stage, the panic button.'

(Photo: Rink)

suspects pushed the first victim backwards. The second victim came to assist his friend and was pushed by the suspects into a newspaper stand, so violently that he was rendered unconscious. The suspects fled and someone called the police. The victims regained consciousness when the police arrived.

A whistle can help keep this holiday season and those to come safe for all. A better investment can't be made.

We wish you all a fun and safe holiday season.



MISSING PERSON

Community United Against Violence (CUAV) is currently questioning the whereabouts of a 33-year-old, white male by the name of Terry Glennstone. Anyone having any information should contact Randy Schell, client advocate, at 864-7233.



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Fighting To Right The World's Wrongs

Priscilla Alexander Goes To The Capitol

by Mary Richards

Tap, tap, tap, echoes the typewriter from within a crowded office on the second floor of the old State Building. It's way past the time when most people have left for the day. Not Priscilla Alexander though—she's busily involved formulating one of her endless lists of people who will attend tomorrow's meeting. On the wall behind her desk, posters for AIDS, No On 64 and COYOTE symbolize the interests of a woman who has finally found an appropriate outlet for her varied talents: the job of legislative aide to state Sen. Milton Marks who represents part of the gay and lesbian community of San Francisco.

"I was raised to think it was my responsibility to care for the world, and to fight to right the wrongs of the world," says Alexander, "I grew up listening to political arguments all my life. (My family) was not very traditional or conventional—ever—and I never saw any reason to be conventional."

She has had the job of legislative aide for only a month. She describes it as "a combination of things, and it probably differs from office to office. In this office, people have divided jobs and part of it is acting as liaison to various parts of the community. You're hired because of your knowledge in certain areas."

So far, she says, "I love it."

Speaking of the senator for whom she works, and how he differs from other popular politi-

'My feeling is I'm glad he's (State Sen. Milton Marks) a Democrat, because it's so hard to do anything in the Republican Party now.'

—Priscilla Alexander

cians, Alexander says, "Sen. Marks has a perfect record on both gay rights and on abortion. He sponsors legislation that's good for all of us."

She points out that, "If the feminist movement were to support people who were good on abortion and not good on gay rights, for example, then you would have a situation in which

women were being dealt with better but gay men were left out in the cold." She believes the reverse holds true as well: "If gay men's political action committees support legislators who are anti-abortion then they are saying that women's bodies don't count."

Her thoughts begin to center on the differences between the



Priscilla Alexander

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

men and women of the community. "It's a long-term struggle," she comments. "For one thing, lesbians tend to live in a female-centered community and gay men live in a male-centered community—and there are some differences."

As she sees it, the ever-present problem of AIDS continues to "make a difference among gay men's thinking, because for one thing they have a much better understanding of why we (women) sometimes have problems about sexuality." Suddenly, she observes, "sex has consequences that aren't so good, and that's pretty scary. It makes you scared to be sexual, in a way that women have always been, because of pregnancy and because of rape. Gay men have not always understood that."

She reflects, however, that "it is not how I would want them to have learned the lesson. It's sad, because in a way gay men's freedom to be sexual was something that many of us wanted to have, and don't have."

Because so many of the resources of the gay community have been marshalled to deal with the tragedy of disease, says Alexander, "the agenda of gay and lesbian rights has been pushed aside a bit." She feels the loss of votes for AB-1 reflected the lack of energy which could have been directed toward changing legislation, energy which is hard to focus "when we have this nightmare killing so many of our brothers."

On the other hand, "The Prop. 64 fight showed us that we have more support than we thought we had. The fact that not one county in the entire state voted in favor of Prop. 64 means that the fear of gays and lesbians in this state is far less than it was in 1977, when we started on any large scale."

Co-chair for the San Francisco NOW Prostitution, Pornography and AIDS Task Force, writer, lecturer and columnist, Alexander has also worked closely with COYOTE, the National Task Force on Prostitution—a combination of involvements most people would consider "unconventional." Margo St. James founded COYOTE in 1973, she explains, "because no one was speaking out about prostitution from the point of view of the prostitute. The thesis is that prostitutes have rights, that they should be treated like other people."

Although she had always been political, she had not found her niche. Working with St. James "and the women's movement," she says, "was an opening up of all sorts of possibilities. It radically changed my perception of myself. I suddenly started discovering all sorts of aspects to my personality I hadn't known."

Chris Bowman, president of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, held the position of legislative aide for Sen. Marks before Alexander was hired. Speaking on the subject of the senator's party switch, she comments, "My feeling is I'm glad he's a Democrat, because it's so hard to do anything in the Republican Party now. I am not rigid about parties. I don't care what someone's party label is. What I care about is that they are progressive and that they have some ability to accomplish something. And I think that his move to the Democratic Party probably makes it easier to get legislation passed. The main issue is that he's a good legislator."

The next day's meeting on AIDS which she is organizing will bring together people who relate to the disease from all different viewpoints: "straight, gay, bisexual, black, white, Hispanic, Asian—because there may be different concerns that would be addressed in legislation. It's important when you have meetings with the community that you try to get as broad a cross-section of people as possible."

Frequently lost in this cross-section is the youth of the community—a group which, she asserts, is often ignored. "Some of that is because a much smaller percentage of us have children than the general population, so we're not as concerned about the public schools. But we need to remember that we come from public schools, or private schools, and what happened to us left some scars. And we need to try and make the scars less for future generations."

She understands the spectre which underlies this problem: "Youth are really going to be at risk, because they don't want to use birth control even to prevent pregnancy, and once AIDS starts to get into the high school population, it's going to be a nightmare, unless they get good sex education."

For Alexander, being a legislative aide is the continuance of a way of life she has lived for most of her 47 years, a life dedicated to bringing about change in the best way possible. And when she speaks of the community of which she is a part, her words bring hope. "The important thing for all of us is to continue to struggle to create new ways of living, which is what we've been doing, new kinds of relationships. And that's a contribution to the whole world."

"We are breaking down the barriers of the nuclear family and even the traditional extended family. We are developing non-blood relationships and developing friendship in a way that probably has not existed. Gay men and lesbians can be strong friends."

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The City and County of San Francisco Department of Health is issuing a Request for Proposal to perform a baseline survey of AIDS risk behaviors and attitudes in San Francisco's Latino communities. Proposals will be due by 3:00 PM January 20, 1987. A Bidders Conference will be held at 1:00 PM on January 7, 1987. If interested in responding contact:

AIDS Activity Office
101 Grove Street,
Room 323
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 558-2381
0543a

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Health is issuing a Request for Proposal to perform a baseline survey of AIDS risk behaviors and attitudes in San Francisco's Black Communities. Proposals will be due by 3:00 PM January 20, 1987. A Bidders Conference will be held at 1:00 PM on January 7, 1987. If interested in responding contact:

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DEATHS

John L. Grennan

Our friend left this life Nov. 30, after a short battle with AIDS. John was diagnosed in early September and faced this dreaded disease with much courage.

Born Dec. 28, 1956, John grew up in Connecticut. He came to San Francisco seven years ago and became a senior programmer for the Harper Group.

Many of us, who got to know John, found him to be a private person. During the three months he faced his illness, he kept much of his emotions to himself. Perhaps he thought he was sparing us the hurt and the pain, but we did share that with him. We had the privilege of meeting his wonderful parents, Gus and Peggy, who opened up their hearts to John and his friends. We grew to love them very much. His sisters, Barb, Diane, and Cathy also came out to spend time with him and we shared some great times with them. Patrick, his brother, came to share and it was a privilege to get to know him.

Besides John's immediate family, he was surrounded by many caring friends: Carolyn, Bobby, Betty from Shanti, Wayne, Fred S., Fred V., Dave, Eduardo, Barry, and many more. I thank all of you for being there.

A mass was held at All Hallows Church, with Father Dan speaking with much comfort. Thank you for giving us some words of hope and love.

John's cremated remains will return with his parents back to Connecticut. Any contributions can be made in John's memory to the Shanti Project.

Rest well, my dear friend,

Carl

Jay Lambert

The friends of Jay Lambert wish to announce his departure from this life on Dec. 9. Jay was 38 years old and had a peaceful passing in an atmosphere of loving and caring.

Jay will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by all who knew him, for his quick wit and the good things of life. When he died, a little bit of all of us died with him. One of the best of us is gone.

Jay's life will be celebrated by those who loved him at a gathering in his honor on Dec. 21. His ashes will forever remain a part of the bay in the city he chose for his home. We wish him well in his journey and will miss him very much.

For information on the celebration for Jay, please call Bill Schade at 864-6058.

Hugo Niehaus

1/30/42 - 12/11/86

Allen Hugo Niehaus passed away quietly at his Vallejo home six months after being diagnosed with AIDS. His best friend and lover, Ron Griffith, was at his side.

A graduate of Yale University, Hugo moved to San Francisco in 1974 to pursue a career in art. His imaginative work has been exhibited at shows throughout the East and West Coasts. Until recently, Hugo had been set designer and decorator for various local theater companies, including Theatre Rhinoceros.

His wry sense of humor, twinkling eyes and generous laughter brightened the lives of many. His friends, who loved him without question, will miss him and hold him dear to our hearts.

Antonio Hernandez

12/5/51 - 12/7/86

Antonio gently passed from life at home with his family and Sandy, his Hospice friend, early Sunday morning, two days after his 35th birthday.

Special thanks from the family and me to Jill, Sandy and Yurii from Hospice as well as Sally and the acupuncturist that gave Tony such relief and hope.

An informal gathering is planned for 12/20 at noon. Call 695-0593 for information.

Tony, knowing you and sharing life with you made life a banquet. Thank you.

Love,
Don

John Walters

1945 - 1986

On Dec. 1, John Walters died in Houston after a long illness. The Texas native joined the San Francisco Opera in 1973, following nine years as a member of the Houston Opera Chorus.

A multi-talented person, Walters supplemented his work on the Opera House stage by appearing with the Grace Cathedral and St. Mary's Cathedral Choirs, and by conducting, managing and performing with the San Francisco Choral Artists. He also sang occasionally with the San Francisco Symphony, Concert Opera Association and several other groups.

He was a graduate of the University of Austin in voice, organ and piano. He was also active in organ rebuilding and repair (Grace Cathedral, St. Mark's in Palo Alto, etc.) as well as tuning pianos. John was a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists and AFTRA. For a long time, he was on the San Francisco Executive Committee of AGMA.

He will be best remembered, however, as a thorough professional and a beloved member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, the group he belonged to for the last 13 years.

Survivors include his lover, Larry Dotz; his mother and two brothers as well as all his friends and colleagues at the San Francisco Opera.

Gary R. Linsky

Gary R. Linsky, 45, died on Dec.

9. Gary was born in Chicago of a Ukrainian Jewish father and an American Jewish mother and he graduated from Roosevelt University in advertising. After a time in Kansas City, he came to San Francisco in fall of 1970. Gary took to West Coast life. He studied Tai Chi and attended Zen Center meditations and studied painting; he worked as a graphics designer on *Gallery Guide*, as a production person at Harcourt's Gallery, and, finally, he was Product Development Manager for Hello Kitty products. There he met his dearest friend, Anna Gallo, who provided loving support.

Gary painted and sketched subjects like Mt. Tam and Land's End, or men at the Cafe Flore. But his primary interest was photographing such things as nature subjects and different festivities. He brought a witty, journalistic flair to his photographs of gay parades and events.

Gary could summon

gifts of counseling. As a host, he was most striking conducting a Seder. To mixed company, he would insist on reading portions from the Hagadah. You realized it was elegant and he had you. It was moving to grasp that his social gifts partly derived from a patriarchal Jewish tradition, even though he certainly couldn't be described as an adherent of Judaism.

Although he couldn't endure lamenting, he's mourned by David Allen, Anna Gallo, Charlie McMaster, Wayne Morden and Stephen Noble, who is living in Austin. He is survived by his mother, Mildred Linsky, sister Donna Cole of Miami Beach, and brother William Linsky of Ann Arbor. Contributions to AIDS Hospice, Shanti, or the AIDS Foundation would be deeply appreciated.

Stephen Dennis Letavec

Stephen Letavec achieved peace on Dec. 14. He was 40 years old. Born Dec. 19, 1945 in Monongahela, PA, Stephen served four years in the U.S. Air Force Intelligence stationed in Thailand during the Vietnam War. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1971 as a sergeant.

Shortly after his discharge, Stephen moved to San Francisco and became the personification of its party scene both actually and spiritually. His friends learned a pride in their life from him long before the parade. Stephen worked for Bank of America in Global Communications. His desire for perfection extended into everything he did. As the Production Correspondent of the Folsom Street Fair, his efforts led to \$15,000 in charitable contributions to various AIDS service agencies over the last three years.

His lover, Rob Fairchild; parents; and friends promised Stephen not to mourn his death but celebrate his life. Contributions to the AIDS Foundation in Stephen's name are suggested.

Steve Gomes

Friends and associates will mourn the loss of Steve Gomes who passed away on Dec. 12 at Community Hospital in Santa Rosa. Steve was a well-known person in the gay community both in Sonoma County and in San Francisco and was well-respected for his work in promoting gay rights and advocating on behalf of the gay community on many issues. Steve was one of the founders of the Sonoma County AIDS Network. In addition, he was a member of the San Francisco Gay Fathers and the Shanti Project. He will be remembered and missed by those who knew him.

A memorial service will take place at the Sonoma County Mental Health Center, 3333 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa, CA at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. Donations may be sent in his name to Face to Face, Sonoma County AIDS Network, P.O. Box 892, Guerneville, CA 95446.



Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, Bay Area Reporter has been forced to change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity and taste.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

(Continued on page 27)

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Alameda Nixes Funds Again; Vigil Protests Delays

Sups. Postpone Vote on \$50K for AIDS Services;
Vigilists Chain Selves to County Building

by Charles Linebarger

Two AIDS activists chained themselves to the door of the Alameda County Administration Building in Oakland on Tuesday, Dec. 16, in response to a refusal by the Alameda County Supervisors to approve a supplementary appropriation for AIDS education and services.

As temperatures dipped into the upper 30s late Tuesday evening, Jack Hanna and J.C. Keller, surrounded by a crowd of supporters, chained themselves to the railing of the main entrance to the Alameda County building.

Jack Hanna, 37, said that he was beginning his act of civil disobedience because "of anger and surprise at what they did today."

Hanna was referring to the action by the Alameda County supervisors to delay a \$50,000 supplementary AIDS appropriation for three more months. The appropriation vote has been repeatedly deferred over the last four months.

"I said, 'How could they do that?'" recalled Hanna. "And the more I thought about it and the people with AIDS who won't get services now, I just couldn't

see it. In Oakland, they are about three years behind San Francisco. There is just one tiny AIDS ward at Fairmont Hospital in Alameda County.

"We weren't allowed to speak this morning," continued Hanna. "(Supervisor) Santana seemed to realize that there were people in the audience who wanted to say something but another supervisor objected that it was a closed hearing."

J.C. Keller, a 24-year-old man with ARC, explained to the Bay Area Reporter why he was there. "I was one of the first two people who started the AIDS/ARC vigil

in San Francisco. Hopefully we can get the same support here as in San Francisco. I'm going to be here a long time until we get what we want."

Asked what he would do if the Oakland police arrest him, Keller said, "If they do arrest me, fine, I'll come back and do it again."

But the Oakland Police, at least during the first night of the new vigil, showed no signs of wanting to end it in its infancy. A policeman on a motorcycle was seen as he sped by the vigil site, apparently ignoring the crowd of newsmen and vigil supporters who had gathered in front of the



Bob Kegeles.

government building.

Bob Kegeles, chair of EBARO (East Bay AIDS Resource Organization), told B.A.R. that gay leaders in Alameda County had already been thinking in terms of some form of civil disobedience in January over the state of affairs in the county when Hanna and Keller took matters into their own hands. On the vote earlier in the day by the supervisors, Kegeles said, "The county administrator recommended that no further funding is needed now, that there is no epidemic.

"I don't buy it," Kegeles added. "The county is certainly in deep shit (financially) but they have got to come up with this money. This money we're talking about is money for case management. This is money that keeps people outside the hospital. And people will live longer outside the hospital."

Tom Brougham, president of the East Bay Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, seconded Kegeles statements. "We have a basic difference of opinion (with the supervisors) about the nature of an epidemic," said Brougham. "They think they can give us a chunk of money that is the same each year and that's a fair response to this situation but our view is that the nature of an epidemic is that it increases rapidly. Just to stay even you have to increase resources in the fight against it."

As of the morning of Dec. 17 Hanna and Keller were still chained to the Alameda County building.



The new Hospice.

(Photo: Savage Photography)

Hospice To Open In Redwood City

by Marv. Shaw

Balloons and cheers went up into the chill, overcast sky as numerous San Mateo County officials and concerned citizens gathered on Dec. 12 to dedicate the first long-term AIDS care facility of its kind in California. Each balloon represented a San Mateo person with AIDS—148 in all. County AIDS coordinator Ed Hilton said the facility would provide services "between acute care and home care." It will house 16 patients and is located in southern Redwood City.

Formerly a geriatric care home, the two modern, one-story buildings are being renovated for a targeted Jan. 15 opening. The sponsor is ELLIPSE Peninsula AIDS Services, an organization founded this year to provide organized non-governmental support for persons with AIDS and ARC. The group's name trans-

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Potted Plants And Bad Pennies

RELIEF ROUP REPORTAGE (A Responding Nose)

A packed-to-the-rafters house awaited Ed Paulson's auction and food drive for PWAs and the needy at Big Mama's, Sunday, Dec. 7. The first collection from the donation barrels packed the rear of the place, and more was expected from the final pick-up last Saturday.

The auction itself raised \$5,225.25! (One does not round off dollars when Ed reports the final take. If he says 25 cents, you can stake your life that the quarter is there!) To date, \$3,000 worth of food has been distributed to Fairmont Hospital's AIDS Ward and the Alameda County Food Bank. Donations of clothing, plus supplemental attire purchased from the auction funds was also distributed to the needy. A complete accounting will be published here as soon as Ed finishes all the necessary paperwork.

Little Mother assisted Ed with the "selling" duties, and Villain Al aided with the displaying of the items up for bid. (Oops! It's now "Witch Al!" Ed presented him with a kitchen witch for his birthday, in addition to a framed one dollar, first-ever tip from Al to Ed over seven years ago. Rumors have it that it just might be the last tip ever...) Kenny Sue and Steve manned the accounting table, while LaLa and Cookie controlled the storage area.

Don't mention potted plants to Cookie! It seems that during the transporting of one from the auction block to the storage area, it managed to turn upside down. Cookie was underneath and was the recipient of all the loose dirt. Her hair and cleavage had to wait until later to be thoroughly cleaned!

Tommy's "bad penny" ashtray appeared for auction — again! It must be the sixth time around for that item. A high bid to give it back to Tommy just managed to eke by the second highest bid to break the damned thing! If I remember correctly, it was one of Mama's bartenders who made the winning bid. Methinks there'll still be ashes all over the bar, regardless of the size of that ash urn!

Ed requested that I express his most sincere and grateful thanks to all of Alameda County who showed up and participated in this most worthwhile event.

MIXOLOGISTS' MERRIMENT (A "Bash"ed Nose?)

Math was never my strong subject — Okay! It is only one of my not-so-strong subjects! — but I cannot understand the financial statement from the Bartenders' Bash, held Saturday, Dec. 6. To wit:

Income

Donation	\$ 50.00
Casino Royale	762.00
Bar Intake (B/B)	641.00
Raffle (B/B)	302.00
"\$100 Raffle" (B/B) (later refunded)	700.00
Admission tickets	
76 @ \$10 ea. (B/B)	760.00
	\$3,215.00

Expenses

Kindel & Graham	\$ 103.09
Mixes	23.40
Sysco (glasses)	32.24
Ice	63.90
	\$ 222.63
Balance	\$2,999.28
Four other "\$100 Raffle" tickets sold but refunded	
Actual income	\$3,215.00
Refunded tickets	— 400.00
	\$3,615.00

This is exactly how it was presented to me — a minus 400, equaling a plus answer.

A total of \$1,446.00 cash from Bartenders' Bash was given to Town & Country, T&C, in turn, wrote a check for that amount to EBAF to be housed in the Adopt-A-House umbrella funds. In addition, checks were received from Casino Royale totaling \$1,549.28. The total amount deposited for Adopt-A-House was \$2,995.28

To further confuse the matter, I understand that all the \$100 raffle tickets were refunded (a total of 11). So, if \$1,100 is subtracted from the original balance of \$2,992.28, that leaves \$1,892.37. Bartenders' Bash turned over \$1,446.00 cash. What happened to the remaining \$446.37?

More imbroglio: Why was the delay for the admission tickets condoned? Others volunteered to do them, but the original contact reneged on the time resulting in wasted precious "selling" time. Why was there no advertising on the \$100 Raffle? (My original poster is still waiting for the time and place to be added.) Perhaps "powers that be" forgot I had done it, but some sort of publicity should have been evident before the event, not announced the night of the event. Assuming that bar owners would take over bartenders' shifts so they could participate in the bash left some hard feelings. The effort of contact with ALL parties concerned should have been pursued.

ASHEN CILIA (An "I've got 'em" Nose!)

The scenario went something like this: B.W. told Suzie at T&C that he had a group that wanted to donate \$1,000 to Adopt-A-House. The donation was to be made at Revol, and he wanted Suzie to be there (regardless if it was her shift or not!). As I understand it, the reason for it being done this way was to insure that the money did indeed go to the funds for Adopt-A-House (remember, they are housed under the umbrella of EBAF). B.W. mentioned the same donation to Steve at Revol and wanted to talk to the owners. Since it was

11:30 p.m., Steve declined to make the call. B.W. was noticeably irritated.

On Friday, Dec. 12, Ralph received a call from B.W. reiterating the \$1,000 donation. B.W. left his phone number for me to contact when I arrived. I called, and the number B.W. had given just hours before had been changed to another number! I called the new number and received no answer. Hoooy! Who's supposed to wear the guilt and look like the bad guy? A suggestion: B.W., set a time and

place and invite all whom you feel are concerned parties, and tell everyone at the same time. That way much confusion can be avoided. What happened with the phone numbers, anyway?

Egads! Next week is Christmas, and I haven't even finished paying for last year! Oh, well, that's life with charge cards! May this Holiday Season bring peace and happiness to each and every one. If THAT happens, I'll never stop smiling. Love,

Nez ●



Bike-A-Thon Tops \$226,000 In Collected Pledges

The AIDS Bike-A-Thon last May has brought in \$226,000 to the eight beneficiary agencies of the event, making the bike-a-thon the largest community fundraiser for AIDS in San Francisco. This represents close to 90 percent of the pledges made to the 650 bicyclists who participated. "Seventy-five percent is considered a good collection rate for this type of undertaking, so 90 percent is a fabulous achievement," said Jim King, coordinator of the event, "and the lions share—approximately \$205,000—was collected by the riders."

The bike-a-thon, sponsored by Different Spokes, was unique in that all pledge money went directly to beneficiaries. Monies to cover the production costs of the event were raised separately by the club and everyone who worked on the bike-a-thon were volunteers. The event cost approximately \$35,000 to produce, with \$25,000 of that amount being contributed as goods and services by area businesses.

Cala Markets donated the food for the four rest stops, Headlines provided the t-shirts at no cost, Copy Mat and Carbon Alternative together donated thousands of copies, twenty restaurants contributed food for the event, all typesetting was donated and over 200 people volunteered to assist. Actual cash cost was donated and over 200 people volunteered to assist. Actual cash cost was less than \$10,000.

Planning has begun for the 1987 AIDS Bike-A-Thon, again to be sponsored by Different Spokes. All AIDS service agencies in San Francisco, Alameda, Marin or San Mateo Counties are invited to contact Different Spokes at P.O. Box 14711, San Francisco, 94114 for a copy of the eligibility requirements.

The working committee to produce the bike-a-thon is being structured and anyone interested in volunteering is asked to call (415) 771-0677 for additional information.

Once again, in 1987, 100 percent of the proceeds will go to support AIDS services. The bike-a-thon is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 1987.

★ ★ ★

Bike-A-Thon Beneficiaries

AIDS Hospice.....	\$68,730
Godfather Service Fund.....	\$ 9,892
Pacific Center AIDS Project.....	\$18,009
People With AIDS.....	\$11,722
Shanti Project.....	\$55,766
S.F. AIDS Foundation.....	\$38,100
S.F. AIDS Fund.....	\$13,911
Sonoma County AIDS Network.....	\$10,784



Gay Christmas Dinner

go. Seniors and the homeless of the gay community are especially welcome.

Turkey, hams, volunteers and money are badly needed. Checks can be made payable to the Gay Community Holiday Dinner Fund and mailed to Rick Hansen, 415 Bay St. #210, SF, CA 94133-1827.

For further information call Empress Phyllis at 621-2531 or the Gay Rescue Mission, 431-2188. ●



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Room, two beds, refrigerator, private bath	45.00	40.00
Room, one bed, private bath	40.00	35.00
Room, one bed, shared bath	30.00	25.00
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Day Use	5.00	4.00
Weekday Winter Special Room, one bed, share bath Three nights.....	60.00	
Weekly Special (all accommodations) Stay 7 nights, get 2 nights free!		
Rooms subject to change. No minors or pets (Rates good mid October thru mid March excluding holidays)		



Left to right: Ed Hilton, San Mateo County Coordinator for AIDS; Margaret Taylor, San Mateo County Health Director; San Mateo County Sup. Tom Nolan; Anne Eshoo, San Mateo County Sup. President; and Msgr. Peter Armstrong. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Hospice

(Continued from page 25)

ordinator Hilton commended Redwood City for its part in supporting the establishment of the facility. He also challenged California to provide similar hospices statewide.

ELLIPSE director Chris Copola thanked everyone who had done so much on this project and called upon all concerned to "make this a place for people to live."

County health chief Margaret Taylor also thanked all contributors and stated that it was "a day we all need to celebrate." Redwood City Councilman Bob Burry said that he was proud that his city had readily taken "the role of responsibility" in supporting the care home.

Outgoing president of the San Mateo County Board of Super-

visors Anna Eshoo congratulated all who have worked on the establishment and stated that she viewed her participation as a privilege. She also pointed out that San Mateo County will be the first in the state to have such a care unit.

In his conclusion, Nolan cited the original task force that got the county started on AIDS care, the Buddies group, which has tended the needs of people with AIDS consistently, and the county as a whole, which voted 75 percent against Prop. 64.

He added that the lines of the Christmas carol we hear so much these days, "Yonder breaks a new and glorious dawn" reminded him of the future that this hospice promises.

The invocation was read by Monsignor Peter Armstrong, who said, "even our frailty is a gift. Our glory is to bear the pain of another."

Rev. Michael Schwartz spoke the closing words, saying, "look with love on all those who suffer with AIDS."

Also on hand were Bruce Decker of the State AIDS Advisory Committee; Richard Gordon, one of the prime founders of ELLIPSE; Jim Perkins, chief of the education sector of the county health office; and the physician who will be the facility's medical director, Dr. Dennis McShane, former president of Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights.

ELLIPSE emphasized that the facility is intended to operate without public funds, insofar as that is possible. But charitable assistance and volunteer help is needed. Contact can be made by mail to 631 Woodside Rd., Redwood City, Ca. 94061.

Several Buddies and members of People with AIDS were on hand to inflate balloons and celebrate the day.

Tom Isenberg, Gay GOP Pioneer, Dies

by George Mendenhall

The founder of the first gay Republican club in the United States and the owner of Bruno's, a Polk Street bookstore, died here on Dec. 6. Tom Isenberg organized Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR). When he published the club's newsletter he also served as the group's corresponding secretary until he withdrew from active participation in 1981.

Isenberg had formed CRIR partly in an attempt to unite gay Republicans behind his friend, mayoral candidate John Barbagelata. Founders included the city's best known Republicans (who later became Democrats)—State Sen. Milton Marks and Sup. John Molinari. There are now four gay GOP clubs in California.

The activist was proud that his contact with Ronald Reagan in 1978 resulted in Reagan's urging a No vote on Prop. 6, a state initiative that would have barred gay school teachers. He also successfully lobbied the local GOP Central Committee to take a No position on Prop. 6—its first public stand on a gay issue.

Isenberg was considered a GOP maverick in 1977 when he was criticized for endorsing a Democrat for supervisor—Harvey Milk. Later he endorsed John Anderson, an independent, for the presidency and successfully launched a campaign to deny Reagan the CRIR endorsement.

"Tom stayed in the background," CRIR President Chris Bowman, commented this week, "but he is significant to the

movement. He had the insight to see the need for a gay Republican group and he worked to keep this club on the right track."

Isenberg moved here from West Hollywood in 1967, was known by Polk Street merchants but preferred to remain "behind the scenes" in his political and personal life. He enjoyed staying at home with his companion, Don James, taking care of his many plants, and playing with his cats and dogs. He enjoyed the strange looks he got when he introduced his mother, a local resident, because of her name, Elizabeth Taylor.

James recalls how Tom chose him (James) to become the first president of the club. "Tom asked if I would be a member of the new club and I told him jokingly 'I would not join a club unless I made president.' He then nominated me and I was elected. Tom always wanted to be low-key and never wanted to be president of CRIR. His big love was his plants and flowers," James said. "I was with Tom for ten years. I am really going to miss him."

Isenberg, who lived in the Cole Valley area, had been ill for one



Tom Isenberg.

month before his death. He died of a liver condition and had requested that no services be held.



Deaths

(Continued from page 24)

David Terry

David Terry, 47, died Nov. 23 at Fairmount Hospital in San Leandro of AIDS complications after being diagnosed one year ago. Memorial services were held Dec. 7 at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland and his ashes have been scattered over San Francisco Bay. He is survived by his sister Diane Terry and other family members.

Terry, who did free-lance clerical work through agencies, moved to San Francisco in 1981 after living in Los Angeles for 12 years. Donations to the Shanti Project, 890 Hayes St., San Francisco 94117 in his memory are suggested.

Stanford Course To Explore Aspects of STDs

The many social, political, and legal implications of sexually transmitted diseases will be explored at Stanford University in a new undergraduate course to be offered winter quarter by the Department of Human Biology. The unusual class, called the "Biosocial Aspects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases," was designed by Sylvia Cerel Bowen, a third-year medical student. Bowen believes policymakers, researchers, and educators can respond better to the AIDS crisis if they understand its context as the most deadly of more than 20 modern sexually transmitted diseases.

The two-unit class has already attracted 150 students, including 25 who will do research for four units of academic credit. Leaders in their fields will present their perspectives on STD policy, research, history, anthropology, sociology, and law. Other lectures and panels will focus on specific populations or diseases.

The lectures will be open to the public, Bowen says, at places and times to be announced by the Human Biology Department.

Below is a tentative listing of the lecturers and their topics and dates of lecture:

Jan. 6: "Basic Overview on STDs" by Bowen and Schoolnik of Stanford Medical School.

Jan. 8: "Antibiotic Resistance in STDs," by Stanley Falkow of Stanford Medical School.

Jan. 13: "Sexuality and Contraception: Contributions to Historic Trends and Current Risks," by Bowen.

Jan. 15: "The National View: Policy, Reporting, and Trends from the Centers for Disease Control Perspective," by Dr. Ward Cates of CDC.

Jan. 20 or 22: "The Local View: Providing Services, Partner Tracing, and Treatment and Public Education," by Dr. Gail Bolan of the San Francisco Health Department.

Jan. 27: "AIDS Two Cultures, One Virus," the evolution of a virus in Africa and the United States, by Dr. Tom Quinn of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Jan. 29: "Syphilis in Western History," by Allan Brandt of Harvard.

Feb. 3: "Behavioral and Cultural Aspects" from the perspectives of a sociologist and anthropologist at the Centers for Disease Control, by Sevgi Aral and Kevin O'Reilly of CDC.

Feb. 5: "Research Methods and Problems: From Basic Sciences to Sociology," by Dr. King Holmes of the University of Washington.

Feb. 10: "Chlamydia, an International Perspective: Maternal and Child Health, Infertility, Blindness, etc.," by Julius Schachter of the University of California at San Francisco.

Feb. 24: "Hepatitis B and AIDS," by Dr. Donald Francis of the Centers for Disease Control.

Topics with dates that are yet to be set include: The Law and STDs, Prostitution and STDs, Adolescents and STDs, Gay and Lesbian Lifestyles and STDs, and STDs and the Popular Media. ●



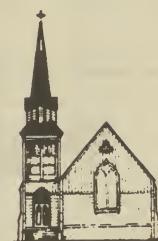
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Spiking Up Fruit Punch

Humor, Satire, and Improv Are Only Part of the Longest-Running Gay Radio Program Ever

by Bob Woolhouse

It is the longest-running gay radio program in existence; it airs on the oldest listener-supported radio station in the country.

The show is Fruit Punch, a five-man cooperative venture composed of three-time Cable Car Award winner David Lamble as well as Jerome Moskowitz, John Morrison, Dennis McMillan, and Robert Triptow. It broadcasts from KPFA Berkeley, 94.0 on the FM dial, Wednesday evenings from 10 to 11 p.m.

The purpose of Fruit Punch has always been to present news of specific interest to lesbians and gay men and to spotlight gay leaders in the worlds of politics, music, literature, sports, and entertainment. It is an important publicity outlet for gay-oriented arts in general and show business in particular.

Now Fruit Punch is adding a new dimension, that of improvisational comedy and satire. There will be increased emphasis on gay humor along the lines of Moskowitz's first gay soap opera, *My Ex Wife Has All My Children*. Triptow, who edits a comic book and has written for *The Advocate* and the *Enquirer*, is working on a satirical current events program based on the Walter Cronkite school of newscasting.

Continuing to be featured on Fruit Punch are such stand-up comics from the community as Tom Ammiano, Marga Gomez, Suzi Berger, and Danny Williams.

At the same time Fruit Punch will continue to cover such events as the Gay Freedom Day Parade, the Cable Car Awards, and Theatre Rhinoceros productions, along with such overall topics as lesbian motherhood and gay parenting, new medical therapies for AIDS and developments in the holistic health movement.

Appearing on past Fruit Punch programs have been Dr. Tom Waddell discussing lesbian/gay parenting; Edward Guthmann, S.F. Examiner theatrical and media critic, talking on AIDS in the world of show business; Charles Busch, creator and star of the New York hit *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*; Edmund White, author of *A Boy's Own Story* and Paris correspondent for *Vogue*; activist lawyer Mary Dunlap covering the Gay Games/Olympics litigation; poet James Broughton and filmmaker Curt McDowell; Vito Russo, author of *The Celluloid Closet*, discussing gay themes and characters in motion pictures; and professional witch Z. Budapest, telling fortunes from tarot cards.



The Fruit Punch collective (l. to r.) Robert Triptow, David Lamble, John Morrison, Dennis McMillan, and Jerome Moskowitz
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Also on the show have been Dianne Gregory, Entertainment Editor of B.A.R.; David Leavitt, author of the new novel *The Lost Language of Cranes*; mystery writer Joseph Hansen; composer Lew Harrison; best selling novelist Anne Rice; Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein, author and star of *Torch Song Trilogy*; political activist Paul Boneberg, discussing fundraising for AIDS; Robert

Gluck, poet and author of *Jack The Modernist*; George Stambolian, editor of *Men on Men*; and Doug Holsclaw, the stand-up comic, actor, director, and author of the highly successful new play *Life of the Party*. And of course Armistead Maupin.

Many of these name-brand celebrities from the gay community will be featured again on Fruit Punch in the months to come, as well as Strange de Jim discussing lord only knows what.

In addition to broadcasting specifically to lesbian and gay audiences, Fruit Punch has a broad listener base in the straight world, especially when it airs such programs as *The Times of Harvey Milk* and the radio version of *The AIDS Show*. Both were syndicated to stations across the country with an estimated audience of more than 100,000 listeners.

Fruit Punch has spawned three radio spinoffs. For two years on KGO FM there was the David Lamble Talk Show. Currently running on KPFA FM Fridays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. is his Traffic Jam, the first gay commercially sponsored, prime-time radio talk show. He also is broadcasting from KQED FM, 88.5 on the dial, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. the first and second Sunday nights of each month, presenting many of the programs and celebrities from the gay community to the general listening public.

office is a Certificate of Honor from the City and County of San Francisco, stating, "In appreciation of Public Recognition of Distinction and Merit," signed by both Wendy Nelder and Harry Britt. In addition, one of Lamble's Cable Car Awards resulted from his work with Fruit Punch when he served as executive director.

The general range of Fruit Punch on KPFA FM is the northern one-third of California, from Santa Cruz to the Russian River, approximately. Listener call-ins from the valley also are received from such places as Modesto and Fresno. KPFA FM is a full-power station conveniently located on the center of the dial. Fruit Punch's quantitative audience rating in each 15-minute sequence is about 5,000 listeners.

One of the most popular acts to appear based on listener call-in was that of the gay troubadours, Romanovsky and Phillips, when they discussed and played their new Teresa Trull-produced album, *Trouble in Paradise*.

The most controversial program by far was the uproar-provoking one featuring porn star Richard Locke promoting safe sex techniques. His detailed discussion of such concepts as "ball fucking," live and on the air, left numerous listeners in the hinterland decidedly unamused. The Federal Communications Commission was of the same mind. Thereafter, Lamble took over for two years as executive director until programming was more closely edited and fully reconstructed. Now, however, the program is once again a collective venture.

And so Fruit Punch, along with its current spinoffs, continues to be a major platform for the gay point of view and also a good communication access for the community. In particular, Fruit Punch remains the only specifically gay radio program in the Bay Area and also remains the least expensive source of gay entertainment possible.

BOOKS

The Idealistic Christmas Present

by Steve Warren

If I never make a nickel off this book, I'll be satisfied knowing some people got it for Christmas, enjoyed it, and learned something from it."

Sure, Craig Zadan is trying to sell his revised, updated, and expanded *Sondheim & Co.*, but after talking with him at length this potentially mawkish cliche doesn't set off my bullshit meter. In his mid-30s Zadan looks about 25, young enough to support an image of youthful idealism.

As co-producer he hit it big with his first film, *Footloose*, and has since been "developing projects" for his own production company based at Tri-Star Pictures. He has a dozen in various stages of readiness, including one he predicts will be "Bette Midler's Oscar, her *Funny Girl*." He can't reveal any of the details of this "dramatic musical" because while Bette is firmly signed, one element of the complex negotiations remains to be nailed down. "It's going to be worked out. I just don't know when."

Other projects include: "a love story set in the world of contemporary dance starring Mikhail Baryshnikov and Ann Margaret"; a psychological thriller called *Blind Luck, Sing*, an original musical by Dean Pitchford (*Footloose*) about middle-class Jewish

families in a declining Brooklyn neighborhood; and Dolly Parton in a "radically different" version of the feminist musical *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On the Road*.

Zadan makes his movies — as he wrote his book — for himself first and foremost, then he hopes to reach and please an audience; critics are the last and least of his concerns: "For me the moment of truth (on *Footloose*) came when I sat alone in a screening room watching the finished film when it was too late to make any more changes, and I said, 'This is the movie I wanted to make. I like this movie a lot.'"

Footloose was a protest against towns across America that have banned and burned books and outlawed public dancing. "We used dance as a metaphor for personal freedom," Zadan says. "I wanted the kids to be entertained when they saw it, but also to say, 'Wait a minute. Something's wrong in this country.' Remember the scene where they're burning books and John Lithgow stops them? Paramount asked if that scene had to be in there and I said, 'Yes. That scene is why I made the movie.'"

If Zadan has a role model in the industry, he says, it's David Puttnam, who bucked the odds to make *Chariots of Fire* and had

a resounding success with it. "There are two kinds of producers in Hollywood. One kind treats the business as industry and commerce, and they would do *Porky's* 8 and *Police Academy* 7 without bathting an eye. I'm one of the other kind. I came from the theater and I did not move to California to make shit."

One keystone of Zadan's philosophy — "I come from the school that you really have to care about the characters" — has some interesting parallels in the work of his most complex "character," Stephen Sondheim, who is often criticized as being "cold" but defends himself in *Sondheim & Co.*: "I find that people sometimes mistake sentimentality for feeling. I believe in sentiment, but not sentimentality."

The book is something else. Zadan did for himself: "I wanted to read a book about Stephen Sondheim and nobody had written one, so I had to write one so I could read it." Published in 1974, it has become a standard text in theater courses.

Zadan, then a writer for *New York* magazine, met Sondheim "through mutual friends in 1970, when he was doing *Company*." He interviewed the composer — "He was talking to the press

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Now almost 15 years old, Fruit Punch was started in the early '70s when gay liberation was emerging as a specific political and social movement. The originators included Alan Farley, now of KALW; Phil Maldari, Public Affairs Director of KPFA; Roland Schembari, co-founder of Coming Up; Bill Hartman, campaign manager for Pat Norman's first run for supervisor; Fred Brungard, Sister Missionary Position; and Jack Fertig, aka Sister Boom Boom.

On the wall of the Fruit Punch

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Dracula's Daughter

The Vampire Lestat
by Anne Rice
Knopf, \$17.95
by Paul Reed

If you've never read a book by Anne Rice, by all means go right out and start, beginning with her well-renowned *Interview with the Vampire*. And if you are already a fan of Anne Rice, this second volume in the "Chronicles of the Vampires" will not be a disappointment. For *The Vampire Lestat* is surely a masterpiece, perhaps the best of Rice's writing thus far.

Anne Rice has attracted a large gay readership independent of her widespread literary celebrity among the general readership. Among gay readers, Rice's fans nearly constitute a cult following, and for good reason. Her themes and characters always deal with outcasts or outsiders—individuals who are, quite simply, not accepted into the mainstream. And the reason for their exclusion lies always with the fact of what, by nature, they are.

While it is hardly logical to make an analogy between the gay community and a band of vampires, the sympathies of gay readers are solicited by the fact that these characters want only to be happy by being who they are. That the general society abhors them for what it considers perfectly sound reasons—their lurid nature—is the lynchpin of sympathy.

But there's more to it than that. The stories Rice weaves are tales of forbidden passion and

homosexual desire. They are tales about deep bonds between individuals, bonds that both circumvent and transcend what are considered to be "usual" modes of personal involvement. We love these characters—they're unconventional, they're passionate, and they're determined.

Less widely known—until recently—though rumored for years in the gay community, is Rice's pseudonymous work. Writing as A.N. Rocquelaure, she produced the trilogy of *Sleeping Beauty* novels that takes the old fairy tale and retells it as an S/M epic filled with ambisexual carryings-on that arouse readers of all sexual persuasions.

And, last year *Publisher's Weekly* revealed her identity not only as A.N. Rocquelaure but as Anne Rampling as well—author of *Exit to Eden*, a modern-day tale of haunting S/M passion set on a Caribbean isle. Again, the sexuality of the characters covered the gamut, and Rice further endeared gay readers to her cohort of fans.

The Vampire Lestat is the "autobiography" of a vampire named Lestat, who was the creator/teacher of the vampire Louis who is the narrator of the original *Interview with the Vampire*. But unlike Louis, Lestat is a very old vampire, having been "made" a vampire in 18th century Paris. He has survived these last 250 years to tell his story.

And what a story it is! Lestat wanders the globe in search of his kind—other vampires. Lestat is a lonely vampire, seeking communion with his own kind, the other outcasts of the living dead. He wants to know more about what he is, and to this end he searches for a great vampire he knows exists, the great Vampire Marius—a teacher and "keeper" of some of the eeriest secrets ever put to paper.

When Lestat eventually comes to know Marius—after many chilling tribulations—these vampire secrets are revealed to him (and to us). Lestat learns what he has wanted to know about himself and about this burning thirst for blood which both tortures and delights him. The novel closes as the vampire Lestat—now a rising rock star—gives a wild rock and roll performance at the Cow Palace.

The story is thoroughly convincing, and this is due to some rather crafty devices on the part of the author. The most subtle of these is Rice's constant iconoclasm as regards traditional vampire folklore. The vampires reveal the truth about themselves in this book, relegating such things as fear of crucifixes or churches as superstitious nonsense that simply fit another century's spooky, medieval nature. Nowadays, in this modern age, such superstitions are laid to rest, and the

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Anne Rice High

Belinda
by Anne Rice, writing as Anne Rampling
Arbor House, \$17.95

by Paul Reed

Anne Rice has called this her favorite novel, and it is not hard to see why, for *Belinda* is a haunting tale of an artist's quest for freedom from a world of binding rules, morals, and prejudice. *Belinda* is the story of a famous children's artist, Jeremy Walker, who in mid-life falls enchanted in love with a 16-year-old girl, Belinda.

Belinda has a secret past from which she is hiding and from which she cannot escape until she attains the age of 18, when the law will recognize the adulthood she attained very early in life. And Jeremy Walker is trapped in his successful past—as a revered, fatherly illustrator, renowned for his adorable renderings of little girls in his many successful children's books.

When Walker and Belinda begin their tumultuous, torrid affair, Walker is inspired to paint Belinda in a series of nudes that marks an absolutely new style of painting for him that could ruin his career. And Belinda—in that

struggle against time, awaiting legal adulthood in that nether-world of "adolescence" we force upon young people—finds herself the object of respect and artistic admiration she has always longed for, independent of the stature her secret past confers.

The novel is a grand mystery that explores themes of childhood sexuality, adult responsibility, artistic integrity, the workings of the glitz-and-glamour machine in American society, and the courage of those who society will label as outcasts merely because of whom they choose to love.

Belinda is one of the most captivating novels Rice has yet written. And San Francisco readers will be delighted to find that the bulk of the novel is set right here, in the heart of the Castro. The only problem I ever have with any novel by Anne Rice is facing the fact that when I'm finished there will be a wait before I get to reach that wonderful "Anne Rice high" again. •

Sondheim

(Continued from page 30)
then" — and wrote an article which "turned out to be an outline for the book."

Sondheim consented to the more intensive and revealing interview process, Zadan says, because "I came up with a concept he liked. It was like a screenplay, with characters moving in and out of it." Those characters include such Sondheim collaborators as Harold Prince, Leonard Bernstein, and, in the new edition, Barbra Streisand. The last, "the person I wanted desperately and thought I'd never get—and got," was the author's greatest coup, besides Sondheim himself.

The one person who wouldn't talk to Zadan was Elizabeth Taylor, who bombed so badly in the film version of *A Little Night Music* it's understandable why she wouldn't want to discuss it. Others do, however, in a dish-laden Chapter 18.

One chapter is devoted to each of Sondheim's major shows—from *West Side Story* through *Sunday in the Park with George*—but the in-between chapters illuminate specific aspects of the industry, from orchestration to poster art. "The process is what interests me," Zadan says, "how a show is put together." If he ever writes a book about the filmmaking process it won't take the form of a biography. "I don't want a reputation as a biographer."

It was Harper & Row's idea to do a second edition, based on the composer's higher profile since the first went out of print six years ago. Between Christmas 1985 and the following April, Zadan relates, he spent Monday through Friday in his office at Tri-Star and locked himself in his house on weekends to work on the book. "I didn't go out for anything, not even for food. I had food sent in." His discipline paid off and the book was officially published Thanksgiving Eve, eight days before the scheduled opening of the next Sondheim musical, *Into the Woods* (pre-

viewed in Chapter 26), at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

Zadan thinks *Into the Woods* could change the depressing fact that only three Sondheim shows (not counting *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*) have repaid investors during their Broadway runs.

Rather than just tacking new chapters on, Zadan says, he did a thorough rewrite for the new edition—"I treated the first book as a research tool." He seems surprised that no one else jumped on the bandwagon in the interim—"You should hear the publishers. Everybody wants a book on Sondheim." They could hardly have hoped to compete with Zadan's thoroughness and inside track, but that never stopped anyone from writing books on Hitchcock after Truffaut's definitive interview was published.

"Steve doesn't give interviews or talk to the press," Zadan acknowledged, "so this is the only chance people will have to know how he feels about each of his shows and how he went about writing the scores for them. Everything Steve has wanted to say is in it."

Everything Craig has wanted to say is in it, too. He doesn't mention his own role as co-producer of *Sondheim: A Musical Tribute* in 1973, or any other influence he may have had as a biographer, but he's aware of the importance of his unique function: "I'm manipulating the story, telling it from my point of view, guiding the reader on the journey."

Sondheim & Co. leaves one question unanswered. It's been widely speculated that Stephen Sondheim is gay (as is, we all know, everyone else in the theater and show business in general). "He's never discussed (his sexuality)," Zadan says. "Clearly it's not in the book." Well, maybe the third edition...

His first and last biography, *Sondheim & Co.*, was, he reiterates, not done for fame or fortune. "It'll never make the New York Times bestseller list. It's my labor of love. I did the book out of pure passion." •

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RSVP

C'est ca "Taste"?

The Really Big News: Mai Lin is back, and her 26 masturbating boyfriends are with her.

No, Mai Lin is not a Vietnamese transvestite. She's all real, all girl, and the star of the infrequently seen hot porn flic, *Serena vs. Mai Lin*. In the movie's last half-hour, Serena and Mai Lin are lolling in the lush pink bathtub of a molto riche LA mansion, when through the door march a couple dozen naked men in masks, who proceed to jack off all over the pink bathtub, and Mai Lin, too!

It's a scene that has caused lower chakra disorder, rigidity of limb, and levitation in porn connoisseurs, especially those with a predilection for (you'll pardon my saying it in an otherwise politically correct column) straight boys. It's recommended for JO freaks, although hardcore homosexuals are advised to arrive late into the movie. There's a lot of lady proceeding the bathtub beatoff, including a four-way lesbian scene.

Mai Lin and her grasp of glad-handers can be seen at the Bijou Theatre; it's the Mitchell Brother's Christmas present, a true community service.

★ ★ ★

Since I began with an item of questionable taste, we can move directly on to John Waters, the erstwhile film director who attempted to make a career of the same. I say attempted, for it slowly fizzled. Following the demise of his film career, however, Waters has emerged as a stylish, sharp, and witty writer.

Ignored by Hollywood moguls, Waters wrote an entertaining autobiography, *Shock Value*, and then numerous magazine articles, for Rolling Stone, American Film, and National Lampoon. Fifteen of these essays have now been collected in *Crackpot* (Macmillan, \$14.95), and thus sanctified, Waters takes his just place among a gay canon of irreverent truth-tellers such as Oscar Wilde and Quentin Crisp. It's an elevated status for one who started so low, but not exactly a surprise.

Perhaps it was Waters' early success that doomed his filmmaking. Where could he go after the excess of *Pink Flamingos*? Only into spontaneous retreats. Deserting shock value for watered-down sleaze, Waters found the bottom falling out of his slop bucket. *Polyester* sold tickets in shopping malls, but was the Waters equivalent of a television sit-com.

If his films could no longer represent him, Waters figured he could himself, and hit the road as a lecturer. A guy's got to make a living. Pleasingly, he proved a witty speaker, both informed and informing. Even though this blew his sleaze-bag persona, this was something he'd never been too secretive about anyway. While parading odd-ball tastes, he had quietly professed the charade for years. When I spoke with him in 1984, Waters discussed the role he'd played as "himself."

"I believe everything I say," he told me about his strange predilections. "Those are my obsessions. But I'm not like that 24 hours a day. The subjects I pick to talk about in my lectures go along with my image—I'm playing myself."

His avid appetite for life's unvarnished realities and his lucid viewpoint allow him to play both sides of the street, which he does with great precision and delight in his articles. A true satirist—meaning he describes things as they are—he never fails to see the humor in his subject, or to understand and explore its opposing qualities. Trash or quality, it's all the same continuum to him, and he stretches our values to hilarious lengths.

In the essays collected in *Crackpot*, one finds scandalous, sensational items thoroughly mixed with the revealing and wise. The expected sass and spit are here, as well as signs that Waters is emerging as a fine critic of the cinema and social scene; where his early articles appeared in National Lampoon, he's now a regular contributor to *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Esquire*.

Crackpot is almost all high-points, from the giddy anecdotes about growing up inside the burlesque houses of Baltimore to "Singing For Your Supper," to

the gimlet-eyed "John Waters' Tour of LA," in which the arbiter of bad taste catalogues the worst-taste city in the world. Titles like "Celebrity Burnout" and "Hatchet Piece" are obvious invitations to mayhem, as is "Why I Love the National Enquirer."

My personal favorite is "The Pia Zadora Story," in which Waters meets a woman after his own kind. "She's got balls," says Waters of Pia, who meets him head on. Pia's a smart and sharp cookie (Waters: How did you feel when *Lonely Lady* swept every award at that "worst" ceremony the day before the Oscars? Pia: I would have hated to be nominated and not won.) who gives great interview—when asked Waters' unmerciless questions.

The centerpiece of *Crackpot* is "Going to Jail," as unique a piece of self-examination and reportage as the event which produced it. In 1983, Waters became an employee of the State of Maryland, leading a seminar in jail at Patuxent Institute—a jail where all inmates are under



John Waters on the lecture circuit

(Photo: Rink)

psychiatric therapy. The average age is 24, and the men are murderers, rapists, and child molesters. Not a pink flamingo among them.

The class was pretty outre. At 8:30 a.m. one morning, Waters screened *Female Trouble*, the

film that humorously states, "Crime is Beauty." The men laughed at the sex and violence, dug Divine, identified with the lawyer and courtroom scenes, and became eerily quiet when Divine gets electrocuted in the chair at the end. But they liked

(Continued on page 51)

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They Clawed Their Way To The Top

Webster's big Dick defines the word "greedy" as implying "an insatiable desire to possess or acquire something to an amount inordinately beyond what one needs or deserves." Similarly, the term "avaricious" — which stresses a person's greed for money or riches — often connotes miserliness. Therefore, just try to imagine my perverse glee upon receiving a greeting card which resembles a poster for the movie *Young Republicans in Love*. The headline on the card states "They're rich, they're happy and they're white. See them worship fame. See them take no blame. See them have no shame."

Claiming that *Young Republicans in Love* features the hit song "We Own The World," the card further insinuates that viewers will stare in disbelief at the heroes of this film — which is shown in wide-screen Smug-O-Rama — defend "all policies that benefit the rich and comfort the powerful." The movie is appropriately rated LP (Liberals May Puke).

Although these words instantly made me think of Ronald Reagan's blundering White House staff, I thought it might be wise to compare the amorality of *Young Republicans in Love* with the questionable tactics of some of my favorite operatic heroines — women who will gladly bump someone off and steal men or money in order to get ahead in the world. Returning to Webster's dictionary I discovered that "grasping" suggests "an unscrupulous eagerness for gain

that manifests itself in a seizing upon every opportunity to get what one desires" while the term "acquisitive" stresses "the exertion of effort in acquiring or accumulating wealth or material possessions to an excessive amount." Last, but certainly not least, "covetous" implies "the greed for something that another person rightfully possesses."

COUNTRY GIRL MAKES GOOD

Forever fascinated by the concept of having it all, Manon Lescaut has always struck me as the quintessential 18th-century Yuppie. A woman who won't hesitate to use her body as a means of collecting expensive jewels (and the men who can furnish them for her) she rushes down the materialistic path which takes her far from the purity of the convent which was to have been her original destination. As one of her cohorts remarks, "You'd better find some money. Manon doesn't enjoy poverty very much."

Like many self-indulgent gay men, Manon knows how to dump any cumbersome emotional baggage from previous relationships as soon as fresh goods arrive on her doorstep. Yet, even after having screwed her way to the top, she continues to worry that her first and deepest love, the Chevalier des Grieux, might have forgotten her, so she rushes off to seduce him one more time before he can take his priestly vows.

Thanks to Sheri Greenawald's lean and hungry look, the San

Francisco Opera's revival of *Manon* was one of the season's better offerings. Despite her track record in bed, this girl simply cannot tolerate the thought that a former lover might try to forget her. Although Greenawald had some nervous vocal moments, this exceptionally gifted American artist seems to have a solid handle on Manon's character. While tenor Francisco Araiza offered a sympathetic portrayal of the Chevalier des Grieux — Araiza was particularly impressive in his two big arias — most of the audience's attention was drawn to Gino Quilico's dashing Lescaut. A visual feast for the uniform queens in the crowd, Quilico's magnificently sung soldier boy nearly walked off with the show.

Although Lofti Mansouri's stage direction was clean and efficient, conductor Jean Fournet could not be relied upon for much in the way of musical vitality. Strong character support came from Li-Chan Chen's Poussette and Remy Corazza's Guillot. However, David Malis' De Bretigny was noticeably below his usual fine work and Thomas Paul's Comte des Grieux was simply substandard.

WHICH WITCH SAID WHAT?

Genuine and full-blooded operatic excitement returned to the stage of San Francisco's War Memorial with a new production of *Macbeth* designed and directed by Pier Luigi Pizzi. While Pizzi's steeply raked stage



Manon (Sheri Greenawald) recoils from the advances of Guillot (Remy Corazza) while her brother, Lescaut (Gino Quilico) looks on.

and simple, blackened sets did wonders for the opera's difficult entrances, exits, and apparitions, a special award should be given to Thomas J. Munn for his superbly theatrical lighting designs. Among his many illusions, Munn made the audience believe they were seeing a rainbow of colors when the chorus was merely dressed in shades of black, white, and grey.

Special kudos go to Shirley Verrett who, although burdened with occasional pitch problems and some weak notes at the top of her range, delivered an intensely satisfying Lady Macbeth, a feat which, considering the difficulty of this role, is easier said than done.

Despite the presence of a cold, Timothy Noble's Macbeth was sturdily sung and forcefully acted. John Tomlinson's handsome Banquo and Vladimir Popov's stentorian Macduff rang true to form with a solid sense of Verdi-style. However, someone really needs to stop Daniel Harper (Malcolm) from beating time with his hands while onstage.

If *Macbeth* was one of SFO's strongest artistic achievements this fall, it was due, in no small part, to Kazimierz Kord's conducting. Kord not only brought new life to the SFO chorus, he did an exquisite job of capturing the seething surrealism, lyric blood-thirstiness, and military pomp which lie within Verdi's score. One of the most underrated works in the operatic repertoire, *Macbeth* has long been one of my favorite operas and I am happy to report that this production was one of the finest stagings of the work I have ever seen.

BUM RAP FOR A BEAUTIFUL OPERA

How I wish I could say the same for the Minnesota Opera's production of *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, which was seen at St. Paul's new Ordway Music Theatre. Although I firmly believe Stephen Paulus' work

is a major American opera — George Manahan's conducting certainly didn't diminish that sentiment — I have rarely seen such a tightly crafted piece of music theater so pathetically abused by a scenic designer and stage director. Having attended all but one production of *Postman* since its world premiere in St. Louis, I left St. Paul with the uneasy feeling that this time around Nick and Cora were not the ones who got flimflammed. Instead, it was the composer and librettist.

Kevin Noteboom's unit set did more to damage the dramatic impact of this opera than I would have believed possible. And, in a work which seethes with dramatic tension and hostile confrontations, Stephen Wadsworth's stage direction — in which the characters rarely looked at each other — lost more opportunities to excite an audience than are forgivable.

Wadsworth's dramatic strength seems to lie in positioning Cora's legs around Frank Chambers' waist for some heavy-duty humping and, while I have no objections to fucking on top of the kitchen table, I think the rest of this opera deserves to be staged with equal effectiveness. As seen in St. Paul, most of the stage action was unnecessarily confused and, because of Wadsworth's poor direction, the vaudeville turn for Katz and Sackett completely lost its satirical value.

The saddest thing about this new production is that *The Postman Always Rings Twice* was so well cast. Paul Kreider's Frank was loathesomely butch; Pamela South's Cora an angry, tense, and frustrated woman. Although Peter Kazaras seemed too sweet for the Greek, his strong tenor voice continued to impress me. These artists, who sang the music magnificently, deserved a better set and infinitely better stage direction than they got. So, for that matter, did Paulus' opera.

Gay Men's Chorus' Holiday Concerts

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Gregg Tallman, will present its annual Holiday concerts, traditionally sell-out events, "Now Sing With Hearts Aglow," Saturday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m., and Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. at Mission High School, 18th and Church Sts., in San Francisco.

In addition to classical and popular holiday tunes presented by the Gay Men's Chorus, entertainment will also include the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco under the direction of Rodger D. Pettyjohn, Men About

Town, Chamber Singers, and — of course — a "surprise" appearance by Santa Claus. Claus, well-known philanthropist and toy manufacturer, will be on hand to offer good cheer and holiday spirits prior to his world-wide tour via sleigh on Christmas Eve.

Tickets, priced at \$15 (reserved), \$12 (reserved), and \$10, are available at Great Earth Vitamin Stores on both Castro and Polk Sts., Headlines, all locations, or by calling 864-0326. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$17, \$14, and \$12.

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Keith White

S.F. Ballet's New *Nutcracker* Transcends Production



Sugarplum Fairy Ludmilla Lopukhova and Cavalier Alexander Topciy in the new S.F. Ballet production of *The Nutcracker* (Photo: M. Sohl)

Every new production of *The Nutcracker* brings to mind the perennial question: Is *The Nutcracker* really only a ballet for children and balletomanes, or is it a viable entertainment for the general public? Baryshnikov's 1976 version, televised yearly, makes it a metaphor for a girl's coming of age, while the Kent Stowell/Maurice Sendak version in this year's *Nutcracker* — *The Movie* goes even further, offering a curious portrait of a lecherous old man whose interest in the ballet's pre-adolescent heroine looks alarmingly prurient. In spite of these versions that lean toward an "adult" view, the best approaches allow *The Nutcracker* to remain a children's fairytale, adhering as much as possible to the libretto constructed by Marius Petipa in the 1890s from the Dumas version of E.T.A. Hoffmann's story.

The late Lew Christensen was guided by that tradition when he choreographed the San Francisco Ballet version that has been danced here for the last 20 years. This year, in keeping with Christensen's plan to rework the ballet, the company commissioned Jose Varona to redesign the production, which includes William Christensen's new staging for the Act I Christmas party scene and new choreography for several of the Act II divertissements. The most significant changes lie in Varona's design.

The ballet begins promisingly, with a handsome new frontispiece which also acts as a setting for Herr Drosselmeyer's shop, a scene not indicated in the original staging but frequently added in newer productions. A street scene, a domestic interior in the "Biedermeier period of the 1830s," is unprepossessing except for its glittering Empire chandeliers and vivid salmon-colored walls (perhaps this color will neutralize with age), but the room breaks away nicely as Clara's dream begins. The Christmas tree grows smoothly and on cue to gigantic proportions, giving way to a busily staged battle between the mice and the toy soldiers. It is in this scene that the designer's best work was done, with crisp, bright uniforms and hobby horses, and campy sculptured mouse heads. Of the new Act I choreography, including a disappointing doll

dance and some fussy bits with the grandparents, the new battle scene represents a dynamic improvement over the former one. Varona's snow scene, ending Act I, is beautifully drawn and very effective.

Act II's "Land of Sweets" is rendered in an array of colors so varied and bright they bring on a chromatic headache, but to many such a palette will epitomize a candy fantasy with no aspartame in the recipe. That the ballet is at times dominated by its new designs is alluded to in artistic director Helgi Tomasson's comment that "The changes we have made in this production were based on Lew's (Christensen) plans as well as what the new costumes have dictated." Every gown in Act I looks dowdy, but they aren't as annoying as some of the Act II creations. The most popular of the new dances, an exuberant Russian Trepak contributed by the venerable Anatole Vilzak, is partially obscured by an overabundance of Cossack swaddling. The costumes for the Arabian dance are topheavy with thick turbans and laden with enough beading and jewelry to outfit half the Castro on Halloween. With costumes like these, it isn't any wonder the choreography for this number is bland, and when a loose bracelet flew off Tracy Kai-Maier's arm at the performance I saw, I regarded it as an appropriate gesture of protest. A new Chinese variation, featuring a good allegro role for its male soloist (Gregory Russell), was choreographed by, I believe, Helgi Tomasson.

Unfortunately, the dance most in need of attention, the grand pas de deux of the Sugarplum Fairy and Cavalier, was left intact for another generation of dancers to make the best of. Joanna Berman managed considerably more than that, sailing through each awkward phrase with unruffled cheerfulness and total assurance. Her handsome cavalier, Marco Carabba, matched Berman's mood and showed impressive elevation in his solos.

The Snow King and Queen, whose pas de deux is superior in design to that of Sugarplum and her Cavalier, were given elegant portrayals by Kathleen Mitchell and Keith Schaeffer. Cynthia Drayer danced the Butterfly

(Continued on page 51)

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Steve Warren

From Here To Infinity

A seemingly infinite number of movies are vying for our very finite space these next few weeks, and we'll get around to all of them as fast as we can. Past the midpoint in previewing the year-end releases, our reactions, especially to the major studio offerings, are measured in degrees of disappointment rather than enthusiasm. But there's always the hope that the next one will be so great the Ten Best List (look for it in two weeks) will have to be revised.

BATTLE ACTS

What becomes a legend most? Old photographs. One of La Dietrich's ground rules in permitting Maximilian Schell to interview her for the documentary *Marlene* was that she was not to be photographed — "I've been photographed to death!"

Schell presents a fascinating portrait of the aged entertainer, neither flattering nor cruel, climaxing in the most dizzying, dazzling display of cinematic virtuosity ever seen in a nonfiction film. She reviles him verbally, even turning "Swiss" into an epithet. He responds with the most embarrassing visuals he can find, intercut with surreal scenes of a dancing doll and Dietrich impersonators on a set designed to look like her Paris flat where the audio-only interview was taped.

Dietrich is caught in lies — she denies having a sister; contradictions — she claims she doesn't watch her old films and never did, yet she spots an editing flaw in a video of the 50-year-old *The Scarlet Empress*; and hypocrisy — she insists a documentary shouldn't be critical, but she's unsparing in her opinions of some of the people (e.g., Emil Jannings, Fritz Lang) she worked with. She dismisses women's lib as "penis envy" and sex as a necessary evil women must endure to hold onto their men. Though calling much of her own work "kitsch" and "rubbish" she still has hopes of winning an Oscar — "the deathbed award," the one they quickly give you... before you die."

Unstinting in her praise for the likes of Orson Welles ("a genius — people should cross themselves before they speak his name") and Spencer Tracy, Dietrich makes Schell jump through hoops as she drifts in and out of lucidity. A hostile witness to her own life, she leaves you wondering why she agreed to the interview in the first place — but thankful she did.

If you haven't guessed, *Marlene* is no more an ordinary documentary film than Marlene is an ordinary woman. (Northpoint)

FAMILY TRIES

Beth Henley's Pulitzer prize-winning play *Crimes of the Heart* was marginally funny, enough to take the edge off some grotesque situations. That humor has been greatly diminished in Henley's screen rewrite as directed by Australian Bruce Beresford, who is not known for his comedies.

Diane Keaton, Jessica Lange, and Sissy Spacek star as the McGrath sisters of Hazlehurst, Mississippi. Lenny (Keaton) is the lonely neurotic who keeps the home fires burdened. Meg (Lange) is sexy and worldly but has been unsuccessful at starting



Marlene, as she used to be

a career in Hollywood. Babe (Spacek), who is somewhat crazed, has shot her abusive husband for being cruel to her 15-year-old black lover.

These are prime roles for three top actresses, and only Keaton fails to make the most of hers, giving us a rehash of what she's always done but with a Southern drawl. Lange and Spacek reveal new facets of themselves and take chances, with excellent results. Tess Harper steals most of her scenes as the nosy, socially climbed cousin next door, and would walk away with the picture if she didn't disappear for an hour in the middle of it. All four tend to communicate in girlish squeals which make the soundtrack sound like it was recorded at a pig farm.

Scenes added to open up the play enhance the dramatic rather than comedic aspects of the film, including a romantic interlude between Lange and Sam Shepard and a trip to the hospital to see "Old Granddaddy" on his deathbed. Henley has a gift for writing dialogue which, however bizarre it might be, sounds real. If you're going to believe *Crimes of the Heart* you have to be able to laugh at it, and on screen you can't do that enough.

Still, it's one of the better year-end releases and worth seeing for the sensational performances of Spacek, Lange, and Harper. (Vogue, Serramonte, Grand Lake)

NOTHING SPECIAL

With a little humor and a lot of wasted potential, *Three Amigos!* is this holiday season's *Spies*, also directed by John Landis.

Ostensibly an innocent spoof of old Hollywood movies, *Three Amigos!* may actually be as simple-minded as it looks. Or it may be an insidious plot to sell the American people on Reagan's view of Central America as a land of ignorant peasants who need help from the U.S. to drive Evil Forces from their countries.

In this case the quasi-military advisers are Steve Martin, Chevy

Chase, and Martin Short, a silent-screen team known for playing "three wealthy Spanish landowners who fight for the rights of peasants." Desperate Patrice Martinez takes them seriously and asks them to defend her village against marauders led by El Guapo (Alfonso Arau, who looks more like El Guano). Expecting them to refuse it she offers the Amigos 100,000 pesos (worth more in 1916 than the current \$114).

From there on everything is as you would expect, only not as funny. Martin, who executive produced and co-wrote the script, pulls a Diana Ross and uses the other two as back-ups. Chase doesn't even carry his weight on that level, appearing to have phoned in his part from the Betty Ford Clinic.

There's a lot of camping amid the silliness, including the "Amigo Salute" — crossed hearts, hands on hips with tossed heads and a pelvic thrust — and a song and dance by Martin and Short that could make a drag show look butch. The three are not above sharing a horse or a bed.

Randy Newman's pastiche songs are surprisingly clever, but Elmer Bernstein's score is perfect. There's even a tribute to *Singin' in the Rain* in a misspelled poster for *The Dueling Cavalier* (sic).

Unless you're desperate to be mildly entertained, don't rush to make friends with the *Three Amigos!* (Metro, Stonestown)

MURPHY MOLESTS CHILD

Eddie Murphy becomes Indiana Jones in his search for *The Golden Child*, a mystical Tibetan linked to him by an ancient prophecy.

"(If something happens to the kid) the world will become hell," according to a woman who talks like Max Headroom. The child, well-embodied by Carmel's J.L. Reate, has been kidnapped by Charles Dance, the devil's henchperson. Industrial Light and

(Continued on page 51)

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Mr. Marcus

Folsom Follies: Anatomy Of a Smash Production

Under the direction of the indescribably talented Warren Cave, Inter-Club Fund's annual fundraiser this year, entitled Folsom Follies, played before an overflow crowd at the California Club last Saturday, 13 Dec. After a one-year hiatus, the 13 motor club representatives composing the Inter-Club Fund and some independent supporters presented what turned out to be a smash-hit. It's a pity it was only a one-time happening.

Consisting of some 19 acts, the show went off without a hitch. The one faux pas Warren Cave lamented wasn't even noticed by the majority of the audience—a huge American flag was supposed to be the backdrop for the opener of Act II ("Strike Up The Band") but didn't. I don't have to tell you there are countless people to thank for their input. It is safe to say that the production was well-rounded and had its share of both drag and non-drag elements.

One of the cleverest (GDI) acts, "I'll Never Grow Up," brought the house down, and Tatiana and Tina Tanner (both expected to be candidates for empress) got a lion's share of the applause. Emperor Matthew Brown's table was decked out in Christmas gaiety supplied by the ever-supportive Horst.

Inter-Club is to be congratulated for a sterling production. It only goes to show you what a one-year vacation can do. But Warren Cave, you really p*ed!

Lots of fun things happened last week all over the place. Parties galore—Patrick Toner's invitations said his party was from 1700 to 2100, but it was going strong at 0200 Sunday. A big turnout for Rita Rockett's reunion party at the High Chaparral, including Herb Caen, who always gets invited to the good ones. The MCC/Digni-



The fun at the Folsom Follies

(Photo: Rink)

ty beer bust at the SF-Eagle brought out close to 300 enthusiastic supporters and the AIDS Appreciation party at Trocadero garnered a swell group too.

Sunday, the Gay/Lesbian Chorus beer bust at the Eagle was overflowing with Menage adding to the superb renderings by the chorus itself. It was a festive weekend in the public sector and for the private parties all over town—and none of it dampened the not-too-nice weather.

They made a bundle at the New Bell Saloon with the plant auction, and it makes you feel good to see so many people having a good time and raising money too. The icing on the cake was the 49ers trouncing the New England Patriots, and as we rush into the finale of 1986 the outlook on all fronts seems to be positive for everyone.

Hope has not died as developments surface almost daily attesting to the fact that the AIDS virus is being scrutinized for a cure. Researchers learn something new every day which encourages everyone to pull together with their donations to ease the suffering of our loved

ones. Don't waiver in your support of all the good things being done by your friends and volunteers!



A side from all the parties you're being invited to, there's a lot of good things in the works. Tonight at the SF-Eagle the tree lighting ceremony takes place. Your \$5 donation will light up that big tree for AIDS patients at SF General and Kaiser.

Friday night, the Kiss's S&M Chorus will make its annual caroling tour beginning at 2100 hours at the Covered Wagon, Rawhide, Watering Hole, New World, and Powerhouse, ending up at the stage at the SF-Eagle. This is no ordinary chorale—they've changed the words to all the Christmas carols you've sung through the years and while not irreverent, they're bawdy and gaudy, so try to catch them as they wind their way through what's left of the Folsom bars.

Nominations are still in progress at the Eagle for the Golden Dildeaux Awards—are you on the ballot yet?

(Continued on Page 40)

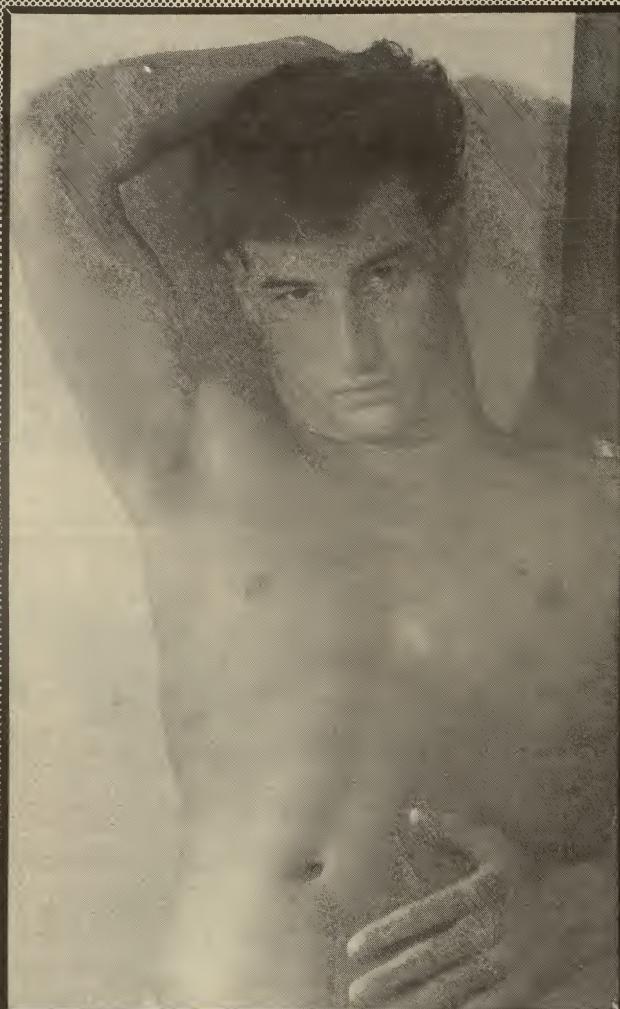


So that you may consider all sides of the issue, the Ms. Leather SF candidates from the rear
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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Fred Badalamente (l.), Santa Claus, and Bill Folk of the Stop AIDS Project (r.) show off a proclamation from the mayor on the occasion of AIDS Volunteer Appreciation Day in San Francisco, which was celebrated at the Trocadero Transfer Dec. 14 (Photo: Goldstein)

Marcus

(Continued from page 38)

The Band Foundation's Dance Along Nutcracker is at the Gift Center Pavilion Sunday at 1800 with reserved seating at \$20 and \$12 general admission. This event was a big hit last year, so try to catch it this Sunday.

Trocadero Transfer is in the flurry of their 13th anniversary

with events for members and guests that will startle even the heartiest party-goers.

The KThar Sissies are having a Winter Solstice Ceremony of Wands Sat. Dec. 20, at 890 Folsom with a \$10 door charge; The Watering Hole's Customer Appreciation party is Monday, Dec. 22, at 2000 hours; Monday, Dec. 22, the SF Jacks are having their Terrorist Christmas

Party—you know where. And the J/O Buddies "Black Tie, No Trou" jekathon on News Years Eve is gaining lots of adherents. Danny Williams and Theresa Holcomb are at the Baybrick Friday the 19th.

If you're travelling north, the Zodiacs M/C of Vancouver is celebrating its 13th anniversary the weekend of Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

Need a Christmas card? The new line out from West Studios features Ms. Piggi in several scenes of disarray, while another card company features Empress forever Nicole of San Diego looking like Imelda Marcos! Gawd!

Stay-at-home couch potatoes might peek into HIS Video's latest, *Sunstroke*, that somehow features a lot of atomic explosions on the tape while the sex-pots in the cast do all sorts of crazy things! *

Frankly, I've been deluged with press releases for the next few weeks, and I can only say it will not fit in the space I'm allotted. I will reiterate my invitation to anyone who wants to be a judge or witness the vote count at the Endup for the Buns Calendar contests. The next one is Thursday, Jan. 8, to find Mr. May 1988.

ALL THE DISH
NO ADMISH



Rikki Streicher (l.) congratulated Hal Herkenhoff and Sara Lewinstein for their accomplishments for Gay Games II recently at the Trocadero Transfer. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

They tell me Patrick Toner is having a baby shower in February, but I have yet to find out which one of you mothah's is going to be the guest of honorrr. Hey, Richard Ruggerio of the Powerhouse—get well soon. We miss your handsome puss behind the bar, but we do appreciate Danny, Ed, Donald, and Matt as well as that hot Gary on the floor!

Overheard at the Folsom Follies at intermission: David Sarathain to a local Wag: "Hey, we've got five new members in the CMC now!" By-stander: "And I hear two of them are reeeeee cute!" Local Wag: "Who cares if they're cute? Do they

know how to run a Carnival?" (What carnival?)

Hottest rumor around town last weekend: Is it true Dick Collier, Jr. of Trocadero Transfer is going to throw his hat in the ring for Emperor? Does Rick Manning know about this?

Most sought-after party invitation for this weekend is for Herbella Hebron's party at her new digs out in the Mission. When Herbella popped into the Eagle last Friday night with a floor-length mink, an irate leatherman sulked: "You ought to know better than to wear that thing in a leather bar!" Responders (Continued on next page)

Larkin Benefit

A benefit for the Homeless Youth Network (Larkin Street Youth Center, Hospitality House, and Diamond Youth Shelter, subsidiaries) will be held Dec. 18 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Bas Klub, 1015 Folsom St., in San Francisco. The cover charge will be \$5. ●

AIDS Survivors and Thrivers

Several long-term survivors of AIDS will share their personal experiences, relating what they have done to prolong and enhance their lives, at the 14th monthly Metaphysical Alliance AIDS Healing Service. The speakers include Robert McFarland, Jay Baldwin, and Christian Haren.

The service will be held at The Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., Monday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. It is open to the public and free of charge. A collection will be taken.

The Metaphysical Alliance is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to healing AIDS.

For further information, contact Michael Zonta at 431-8708 or Luther Ballieu at 621-7187. ●

Frameline Graphics

Frameline is looking for a graphics person to design and produce all artwork for its 11th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 1987. The Festival's graphic artist will design the official Festival poster, t-shirt, program, and other items. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 15. For more information call Frameline at 861-5245. ●

Frameline Forum

Frameline will hold a public forum to answer questions and discuss issues concerning the programming of lesbian films and video tapes in the annual San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. The forum will be held Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St., in San Francisco. For more information contact Frameline at 861-5245. ●

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Empress forever Nicole of San Diego will tour with porn star Jeff Stryer, but when? Where? How? Why?
(Photo: Big Jymm)

Cruising With FOG

The Fraternal Order of Gays will go on a spectacular cruise to the Mexican Riviera on the luxurious *Tropicale* of the Carnival Cruise Line March 29-April 5, 1987. On the *Tropicale* there are three outdoor pools, central air conditioning individually controlled in each stateroom, closed circuit TV, piped-in music, deck sports, table tennis, three meals a day plus midnight buffet, late-night buffet and early morning, mid-morning, and afternoon snacks, and a game room, card room, casino, sauna, gym, duty.

free shops, and more.

The cruise price (\$769-\$789) includes all meals and the \$28 port charges. It does not include transportation to Los Angeles. FOG will be able to get a special discounted air rate in connection with the cruise.

All cabins are category four or higher, normally costing \$1,225 and more.

Send a \$200 deposit check to FOG by Jan 2. For more information and reservations call FOG at 641-0999.

Clean and Sober New Year's Eve

The lesbians and gay men of Alcoholics Anonymous will present a clean and sober New Year's Eve party Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin St., in San Francisco.

Childcare will be available. There will be a special AA meeting from 8 to 9 p.m. at the Unitarian Center.



Cable Car Nominations

The board of directors of Cable Car Awards, Inc. announced that nominations for any award will be accepted now. If you would like to nominate a person, function, fundraiser, etc., please send a short note giving the name, address, phone number, and reason you would like this person or event to be named Outstanding. Send these to Cable Car Awards, P.O. Box 1171, San Francisco 94101.

The 1987 Cable Car Awards and show will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the GiftCenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan St., at 8th St. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the show will begin promptly at 8 p.m. Voting in many categories will be conducted during the hour before curtain time.

For more information about tickets, the show, or nominations, please phone 826-2999 or write the post office box listed above. All nominations will be considered by the board of directors.

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)
ed La Hebron: "Darling, this is leather. It just hasn't been shaved yet!" Guffaws and snorts from the pigs nearby. The next night Herabella appeared in yet another fur, this time floor-length white mink, a declaration that he is, indeed, a Snow Queen!

Since it was a weekend of eavesdropping, why stop now? Ready? When Sup. Molinari's aide-de-camp (and we do mean camp) Dennis Collins showed up South of Market in a leather jacket and white tennies, repeat white tennies, Mr. Carnival Duke Armstrong chided Dennis' date (George Burgess): "How dare you let your daughter out in that combination?" Retorted La Collins: "I'll take off the leather jacket—it's easier than taking off my tennies." As for dudes still wandering around with designer jeans under their chaps, with just a little effort you could look butch by cutting off the label.

Kudos to Ed Guthman of the SF Examiner for the great article on AIDS and the Arts in the pink section Sunday (7 Dec), and thank all of you for helping Ed with factual information in his research. I hope you all had a chance to read it.

Can you believe New Years is on a Wednesday night this year? And you all have to go back to work on Friday? Hello, are you still thinking about it?

The Cheaters M/C found a location for its Presidents Convention 1986-87 where one of the motor club presidents will be voted in as President of the Year. It's no easy choice. It will take place Saturday, Jan. 31, at a new place—International Center, 50 Oak St. The \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door tickets go on sale any day now, and the ballooning is riotous—one of my favorite club events. The Corresponding Secretary of the Year will also be named, and with drinks going for only \$1 it should be a blast. Have you placed your ad in the program yet? I want to but who does one contact? Are you reading this, corresponding secretary?

Cut this out for your birdcage and hang in there. Support all the charitable functions, keep your legs crossed, and remember: Seeking to know is only too often learning to doubt.



Tom Rodgers (l.), Rita Rockett, and Patrick Toner at the Ward 5-A brunches benefit party at High Chaparral
(Photo: Rink)

Bazaar Calendar

THURSDAY 12/18

Lights For Life Party, S.F. Eagle, 8 p.m., buffet.

Mr. and Miss Cowboy Casino Night, Kokpit, 8 p.m.

Transfer Christmas Party, Transfer, 8 p.m., show.

SATURDAY 12/20

Toys For Tots Benefit and Pajama Fashion Contest, The Mint, 11 a.m. 'til ? First drink free.

Winter Wonderland Party, Trocadero Transfer, 10 p.m. 'til dawn, \$10 with Troc ID.

SUNDAY 12/21

Employees Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$6.

Godfather's Christmas Party, Kokpit, 5 p.m., 8 p.m. drawing.

Mele Kelikimaka Party, Kimo's, 8 p.m., Christmas show by Sissy, buffet.

Christmas Party For Campus Varsity Squad, Kokpit, 11 p.m., drawing.

MONDAY 12/22

Mr. and Miss Gay San Francisco Victory Party, Galileo, 8 p.m.

Christmas Party, Men's Room, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 12/23

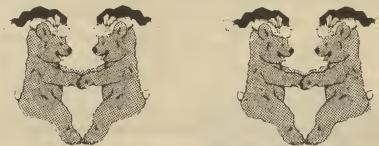
Special Thank You Party, Trocadero, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., free open house.

WEDNESDAY 12/24

Christmas Eve Party, Trax, 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Party, Kokpit, 8 p.m. 'til ? Char on planks.

Compiled by Karl Stewart and Diedre



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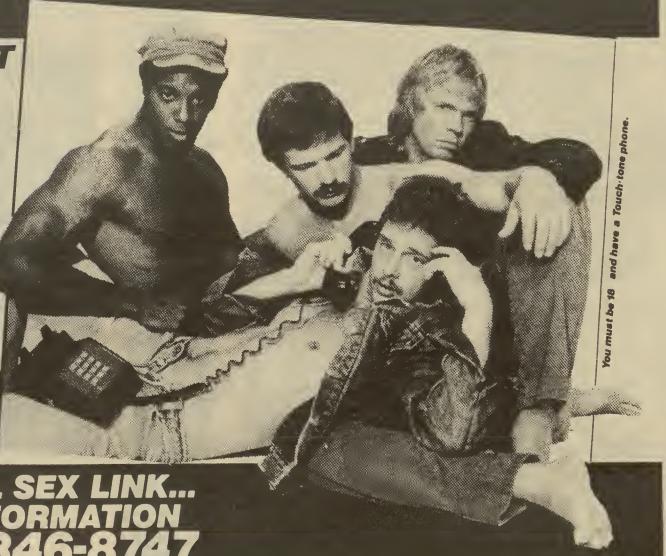
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—Herb Caen, SF Chronicle (12/83)

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THIS

FRIDAY 19

- Rhiannon and Mimi Fox: music, Sisterspirit coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 9 PM, \$4-\$7 sliding scale. Scaat singing and virtuoso guitar playing by two members of Alive!
- Beyond Definition: music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4-\$6 sliding scale. Blues, jazz, and top-40 with Tammy Hall, Dee Harris, Yolanda Bush, Joslyn Segal, and Anna Maria Flecher.
- Judy Friedman: music, Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Call 428-9684 for more information.
- Before Stonewall and Different From the Others: television on KQED, channel 9, 11 PM to 1 AM. The history of the gay rights movement is chronicled.
- Yoga Class for PWAs and PWARC: taught by PWA, 4:5-5:30 in the Mission, \$5 if you can afford. Call 863-7212 for more information.
- AIDS Prayer Vigil: Church of the Advent of Christ the King, 261 Fell St., S.F., noon to 3 PM. Call 431-0454 for more information.
- "I Had AIDS Workshop": noon and 7 PM; videos at 9 PM. Call Richard Locke at 558-9650 for more information.
- Vision play: circle of healing and renewal using visualization and deep trance work, Quan Yin Acupuncture Center, 513 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5-\$15 sliding scale. Led by Van Ault, certified hypnotherapist. Call 864-1362 for more information.
- Bearclaw: stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$9-\$12. By Timothy Mason, directed by Kris Gannon.
- Frank Banks: sing-a-long piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 5:45-8 PM.
- SF Macrobiotic Network: community dinner, Zen Center Guest House, 273 Page St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$8. Call 647-3347 to make a reservation. Free Iyengar-style Yoga class precedes the dinner at 5 PM.

SUNDAY 21

- Dance-Along Nutcracker: and Christmas gala featuring the S.F. Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, S.F. Flag Corp., the Vocal Minority, the S.F. Tap Troupe, and City Swing with Gail Wilson, Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan St., S.F., 6 PM, \$15 and \$20 reserved seats (call 621-5619) or \$12 unreserved seats (available at all Headlines stores). Call 621-5619 for more information.
- Robert Coffman: will read Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. Call 861-3078 for more information.
- Dennis Cooper: author of *Safe, He Cried*, and publisher of Little Caesar Press, will read from his works, *Intersection for the Arts*, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 3 PM, \$3, \$2 members.
- Blazing Redheads: music, Fullmoon Saloon, 1725 Height St., S.F., 6 PM, \$3.
- Zemora: music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$3. Rock, pop, and R&B.
- International Revue of Showgirls II: Christmas fundraiser for the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Stage Coach Inn, 610 Coleman Ave., San Jose, doors open 7 PM, show runs 8-11 PM, \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.
- San Francisco FrontRunners: Downtown run. Meet at Jackson and Front sts. at 10 AM. Three miles, some hills. Call 673-7303 or 337-8704 for more information.
- G40+: meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM. Holiday party and celebration of 13 years of G40+. Special entertainment and surprises. Birthday cake. Call 648-8678 for more information.
- Vivaldi's *Gloria*: performed by the MCC San Francisco choir with chamber orchestra, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7 PM, free. Part of an Advent Vesper service which will include music by Holst, Praetorius, Billings, and Handel, and festive holiday carols. Call 863-4434 for more information.
- Carter Heyward: videotape of the lesbian author, feminist theologian, and Episcopal priest, St. John's, 1661 15th St., S.F., 4 PM. Followed by Women's Focus and Eucharist at 5:30 PM. Sponsored by Women-in-Integrity.
- MCC San Francisco: worship and communion service 10:30 AM, Advent Vespers 7 PM, 150 Eureka St., S.F. Call 863-4434 for more information. Childcare provided.
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church: services, 111 O'Farrell (at Gough), S.F., communion at 8:30 AM and 11 AM. Call 928-7770 for details.
- Diablo Valley MCC: worship celebration, 2253 Concord Blvd., 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- Affirmation-Gay and Lesbian Mormons: meeting and services. Call 641-4554 for recorded message which details the meetings and socials.
- Golden Gate MCC: Sunday worship services, 48 Belcher St. (between 14th St. and Duboce), S.F., 12:30 PM, 7 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.
- Dignity: Sunday Mass, St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate (near Civic Center), 5:30 PM. Call 584-1714 for details.
- Men's Clinic: free and confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. Counseling and referrals for men with AIDS/ARC concerns, open to all Bay Area gay men, sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Duran Ave., Berkeley, 7-9 PM. Call 644-0425 for more information.

SATURDAY 20

- Now Sing With Hearts Aglow: musical concert by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Mission High School, 18th and Church sts., S.F., 8 PM. Santa Claus and his friends, including the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, Men About Town, and the Chorus' Chamber Singers, will be on hand to help you cruise into the holidays. Call 864-0362 for tickets and more information.
- Bring Back the Light: Winter's Solstice Ceremony of Wands with the K'Thar Sissies, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 8:30 to 9:30 PM, \$10. Erotic healing, mythic re-enactments and pathways to the cosmogram. Clothes check and light refreshments provided.
- Winter Wonder Land: Trocadero Christmas party, Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., 10 PM 'til dawn, \$10 with Trocadero ID. Christmas edibles and brews, DJ Damien Johnson.
- Blazing Redheads: music, 181 Club, 181 Eddy St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5.

Robert Coffman will read from Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* Dec. 21 at Walt Whitman
(Photo: Rink)

WEEK

- **Holy Trinity Church:** meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 10 AM to noon.
- **Eastern Orthodox:** Holy Ascension Mission, liturgy at 10 AM, 1671 Golden Gate #2, S.F. Call 563-8514 for more information.

MONDAY 22

- **Terrorist Night:** SF Jacks Christmas party, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 7:30-8:30 PM, \$6.
- **AIDS Survivors and Thrivers:** featuring Robert McFarland, Christian Haren, Jay Baldwin, and others, MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7 PM. Plus a healing circle of love led by Dave Braun. Signed for the hearing impaired. Presented by the Metaphysical Alliance. Co-sponsored by the AIDS Interfaith Network. Call 431-8708 or 621-7187 for more information.



TUESDAY 23

- **Special Thank You:** party, Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., 9 PM to 4 AM, free.
- **Gay Cable Network:** television on cable channel 6, News from New York and San Francisco with guest Joann Lewland, author of *Lesbian Sex*, on Pride and Progress. Special holiday show on The Right Stuff.
- **Slightly Older Lesbians:** meeting, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7-9 PM. Call (408) 293-4525 for more information.
- **Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana, Berkeley, 7:30 PM. Call 843-1439 for more information.



Cruise into the holidays with the SF Gay Men's Chorus as they sing with hearts aglow Dec. 20 and 24

- **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 PM, request dancing 8-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 285-5634 for details.
- **Gay-Nite:** Rollergarden, 15721 East 14th St., San Leandro, 7:30 PM-Midnight.
- **BurLEZk:** erotic dance show for women, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- **San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps:** rehearsal, Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 7:30 PM. All band instrumentalists are needed. Call 621-5619 for more information. Every Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY 24

- **Now Sing With Hearts Aglow:** musical concert by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Mission High School, 18th and Church sts., S.F., 7 PM (see Saturday listing for details).
- **MCC San Francisco:** Christmas Eve worship service, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 PM. Call 863-4434 for more information.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** Bible Study and Prayer & Praise Worship, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Bible Study at 7 PM, Prayer & Praise Worship at 8:15 PM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Western Star Dancers:** square dance for experienced mainstream level dancers, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor theater. Both males and females welcome. Every Wednesday. Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for details.
- **Men's Wart Clinic:** removal of penile and external and internal venereal warts, Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, Oakland, sliding scale. Staff physician is Dr. Fred Strauss of the Gay Men's Health Collective. Call 444-5676 for more information.
- **Cabaret Open Mike:** Belden 22, 22 Belden Pl., S.F., 5:30-8 PM. Hosted by Aldo Bell with John Trowbridge at the piano. Call 398-4877 for details.

THURSDAY 25

- **Lesbian Christmas:** potluck gathering, 437 Webster St., S.F., 3-8 PM. Children welcome. Call Midgett at 864-0876 for more information.
- **Empress Tessie Gay Community Christmas Dinner:** and celebration, St. Paulus Church, Eddy and Gough sts., S.F., noon to 2 PM, free.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Christmas run. Meet at McLaren Lodge, John F. Kennedy Dr. and Stanyan in Golden Gate Park, S.F., 10 AM. Up to five miles, rolling. Call 673-7303 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **MCC San Francisco:** Christmas Day worship service, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM. Call 863-4434 for more information.
- **Christmas at the Cabaret:** 9435 E. Hwy 20, Glenhaven, noon. Complimentary buffet.
- **Coming Home Hospice Bingo:** Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$10 minimum buy-in. Come on over and join the fun . . . even if you've never played bingo before. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and non-smoking areas. Early Bird specials. Door prizes and cash prizes for each game.



The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

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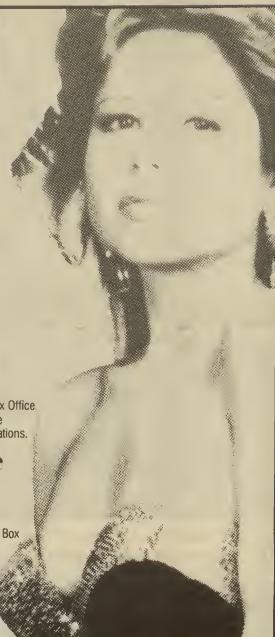
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Do You Know Where Your Chestnuts Are?

Here we are just one week away from Christmas and two weeks away from saying goodbye to 1986, a year where we had to fight for an early Christmas present by defeating Prop. 64 so we would have one less worry on our minds during the holiday season. Feeling empty, a little blue, and wondering where we will be next year? Cheer up and take the time to reflect on what Christmas is really about, which is really not the parties, or the gifts, but instead all about love and joy, and that is what our community is founded on!

Let's all dig down deep and get out those sincere smiles, that down-to-earth joy, and unlock that holiday spirit and share it — and yes we all know there are

some who need it more than others! So I will start this column off with a humongous Merry Christmas to all with the words of Tiny Tim — God bless us, every one.

Apparently I was taken seriously when I said I liked to party, and yes the invitations have been coming in at a fast and furious rate. I R.S.V.P. to all of them and then remembered my work schedule and was forced to send the traditional regrets to a few, but the ones I have been able to attend were superb.

It seems as though Stanley of the Mint and myself have the same circle of friends as we have been to a lot of the same parties together, and he is always such charming company. We attended a party at the Galleon that was

for bartenders and was given by Tommy Thompson. The menu and company were excellent and Tommy was the perfect host, although I think that he was a little disappointed that there were no big winners in his lottery-ticket giveaway. There's always next year, and thanks once again for the nice evening. Another party Stan and I attended was the Coits' Christmas party at Sutter's Mill where I was a guest of Ed Durity and once again the food was great! I received the traditional Coit diaper as I am the newest member, thus becoming the Coit Baby! Oh fear not, libations were consumed!

In the spirit of Christmas Mr. Lee-Ona of the Kokpit has organized a project called "Santa is coming ... Just for you," and what it is all about is this. Santa and his helpers have been visiting the patients at the AIDS wards of San Francisco General taking personal gift requests, and after filling the orders Santa will return on Christmas day to deliver. If you would like to find out if you might be able to help fill one of the requests you should contact Mr. Lee-Ona at the Kokpit, 775-3260, as it sure would be appreciated.

The Open Hand meal program is now \$900 richer as a result of a plant auction that was held at the New Bell last Sunday. It was a record-breaking auction as we sold all the plants in 45 minutes, probably due to the fact that I was going at high speed. The bidding battle between Wayne Friday and Bob Golovich increased the coffers when Wayne finally stepped out of the bidding on one plant and let Bob have it for \$500. A big thank you to all for making it a success.

Let's see what the Kokpit is up to for madness this week. This Sunday they will host the God-father Service Fund Christmas party that will be from 5 to 8 p.m. with food, fun, spirits, and they will have the drawing for the God-



Empress Sable Clown sings to her boys at the Royal Court's Christmas party at the High Chaparral, a benefit for Shanti (Photo: Rink)

father holiday raffle at 8 p.m. Those tickets are on sale at the Kokpit, or from June Starling, Spike the Dyke, members of the G.S.E., and myself. The Kokpit's Christmas party will be on Christmas eve, from 7 p.m. 'til 2 a.m., and Char will be behind the bar, assisted by Mr. Boston.

Saturday will be Boo Boo Kitty's first project. He will hold a pajama party at the Mint for Toys For Tots that will go from 11 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. You will receive your first cocktail compliments of the Mint when you bring in a new unwrapped toy, and they cannot accept toys from Mr. "S," although Boo Boo Kitty might. There will be prizes for pajama ensembles, and for those of you who didn't know, Boo Boo Kitty is Steven who works there.

Later on in the Saturday eve you should drop by Teddy Bears, 131 Gough, as the Larry O'Leno Trio will be doing a salute to Hoagie Carmichael with shows at 9, 10:30, and midnight. They will be joined by Pauline and other singers in what looks to be a fun evening. Also, Larry will be playing Christmas Eve at the New Bell, and I will be bartending, and also serving up some traditional recipes from my family files.

Another Trocadero tradition starts at 10 p.m. this Saturday night when their Christmas party, "Winter Wonderland," takes over the Troc with music by Da-

mien Johnson. They will serve Christmas edibles, admission is \$10 with Troc ID card required, and of course the party will go 'til dawn.

Sunday will be the 2nd annual "Christmas Gala and Dance Along Nutcracker," presented by the San Francisco Band Foundation. This event will be at the Giffen Center Pavilion and will feature the talents of the many groups within the band, City Swing with hot Gail Wilson, and my favorite booboo Danny Williams as the M.C. for the evening. The doors open at 5 p.m., the show starts at 6 p.m., and from 8 'til 10 p.m. there will be dancing with City Swing. To order reserved tickets for tables or individuals call 621-5619, or you can get unreserved tickets at Headlines.

Most of you know that Dick Petroff is still in the hospital recuperating from his recent heart attack, and my get well wishes go out to you along with everyone's. Gilmore's will be doing an auction for Dick on the 4th of January, and they will be accepting donations for that at the bar on the 3rd and 4th. Hope to see you there!

I must do my shopping for Christmas. At the top of my list is going to be a sense of humor for a few people, a calendar for others, and a pound puppy. They don't make toys like they used to as it certainly seems odd that when you go through a toy department nowadays the only things that don't talk to you are the salespeople. Life was simpler when you just had to pull the string!

Welcome for the holidays to Ferne, who is probably here to clean up playing 5000 at the New Bell. Ms. Piggi, you light up my life, but who lit up your dress? Piggi had an electrified Xmas ensemble on the other night, but don't you think you could say hello before you ask for the nearest electrical outlet? I know where my chestnuts will be this year, do you? •

Odysseus '87

A new international gay travel guide with listings of accommodations at popular gay travel destinations, bars and restaurants, maps, and gay tour packages is now available.

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Karl Stewart with his friends Paulette (l.) and Rocky Rockwood (r.) at a benefit auction at the Men's Room recently (Photo: Rink)

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The Ambush Tell Me You Love Me, Then Get The FUCK OUT!



The Ambush — Gone but not forgotten
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

by Mark I. Chester

Monuments mark off the passages of my life. Signposts, like entries in some dark diary telling me where I've been. People, places, and events with which my life is inextricably intertwined.

At one time those passages were punctuated by schools and vacations. The assassinations of Kennedy/Kennedy/King. The War in Vietnam, the bombing of Cambodia, and the murders at Kent State. But when I came out at the Pirate Ship in Madison, Wisconsin, some of those monuments became gay bars, each defining and describing a time in my life. Each one a step in my growth from homosexual to a man who loves men.

They were hidden secrets, places with only red lights to signify that something was going on behind closed doors. Lost in warehouse/working class districts and on seedy streets. Young and gay, I had fantasies of going to every gay bar in the United States. There was always time to stop, time to check out another oasis in the midst of hostile America. Watering hole to watering hole.

Outcast/outlaw. A piece of me remained uprooted and disconnected to the system of family ties and institutions that were home to those living mainstream lives. But gay bars provided a connection to a community that spoke to the person I was, not the person society wanted me to be.

Many of them were sad, filled with lonely, desperate, defeated men pumping alcohol through their veins and looking over their shoulders with fear every time the door opened. Some of the bars were fun and for a time the rest of the world would drop away. But I only ever felt at home at two of them.

The first was a bar in Chicago during the early 1970s called PQs. PQs was a gay hippie freak bar. I can still see flashes of beautiful young faggots in jeans,

beards, and long flowing hair, dancing to the Temptations singing "Papa was a Rolling Stone." Take them home and fuck their hair; use their peace beads as a cock ring. It felt like home, and it was just a dance bar.

But the Ambush not only felt like home, it was home.

If you were expecting a eulogy for the Ambush, tears, grief, and sorrowful whys, forget it. If you are expecting me to capture the ultimate reality of the Ambush, I can't. But I won't allow this page to be turned, this light to be clicked off, without a personal reflection and celebration of something that ran so close to my heart.

I like to think that the Ambush was born out of the bowels of gay liberation, carrying on a spirit that flowed from the Tool Box, the Folsom Prison, and the Red Star Saloon.

The bar was different and the community of men that grew around it was different. And what was different about the Ambush was that it was real.

Other bars traded on the leather image and the macho ideal as if it were a recipe to be mixed out of a cookbook. A reactionary pendulum swing to the giddy glitz of androgynous faggots and their newly found freedom. But the Ambush was relaxed, open, and free. It had a masculine mystique that avoided drag, whether androgynous or costume leather. You were only required to be yourself. And be open to partying. There was always a party going on at the Ambush.

The men of the Ambush were a revelation to me. Slightly greasy, sleazy, unshaven, unkempt, and oozing with sex. All kinds of men. Silver gray, next to tender boys, leather that was slept and fucked in, next to jeans and flannel shirts, gym-toned bodies next to untoned and natural, and black bodies next to white ones.

Consider the Ambush motto, printed on cards with the Ambush logo and Chuck Arnett's Ambush men:

Beat Me
Bite Me
Whip Me
Cum all over my chest
Fuck Me like the Dirty Pig that

I am
Tell Me you love me
Then get the FUCK OUT

And if the rest of South of Market seemed caged by the myth of sadomasochism, the Ambush glorified in partying through rough sex, radical sex, and sex for

the sake of sex. This carnivorous desire exemplified by the crazy moving beat of Tim Buckley wailing over the bar's speakers from *Greetings from L.A.*, "Whip me, spank me, beat me, mama make it right again." The music continued to cut like a knife, long after Buckley offed himself in a well of black pain.

At one time there was acid punch, parties after hours in the bar behind closed doors, and so much cocksucking going on in the bathroom people who wanted to piss used the back door, staining the ground in a long yellow

stream. At one time Sunday afternoon in the Ambush was a celebration of gay sexuality amidst a pulsating crowd, the smell of pot and poppers and the tease of tits pulled, arm pits licked, and tall black boots serviced.

But it wasn't just drugs, sex, and rock and roll. It was more like sex, art, drugs, and family: the four guardian muses of the Ambush.

And if sex oozed from the Ambush, then art exploded from it. A colony of artists grew out of the men who hung out there. Painters

(Continued on next page)

"First you lick my boots."

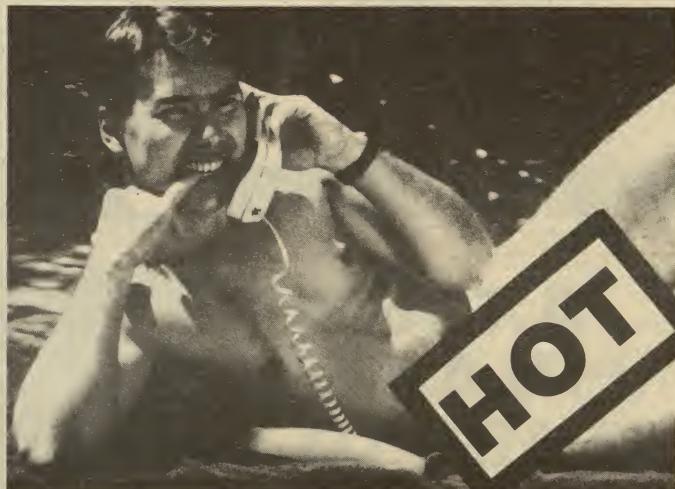


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BOOKS

Breast Beating

The Gentleman From Maryland: The Conscience of A Gay Conservative

by Robert Bauman
Arbor House

by Frank J. Howell

Ever since Allen Drury whispered the dirty little secret in *Advise and Consent* (1959), eager tongues have wagged about what goes on in our nation's capital after dark.

Bauman, a distinguished, arch-conservative Congressman from Maryland, loved to frequent gay bars in Washington and seek out attractive, young hustlers. Alas, the FBI hired paid informants to shadow Bauman. In 1980, his double life exposed, he lost his re-election, his wife divorced him, and most of his conservative supporters deserted him.

Smart-ass jokes abounded. "Do you know what position

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Bauman will have in the Reagan Administration? Solicitor General? Or, "Bauman was born and reared in Washington."

Fortunately, his strong Catholic faith saw him through. He sought counseling from his priest and a therapist. Today Bob Bauman is attempting to carry on his career via a private law practice.

A curious thought emerges from the trials of this unfortunate man. For years the police in Washington, D.C., have discreetly covered up scandals of the high and mighty. Even when Congressman Gary Studds was caught with a page a few years ago he succeeded in gaining re-election from Massachusetts. But Bauman receives no such forgiveness. Can we blame his politics? Are liberals more generous and forgiving than conservatives? What can we detect in Bauman's character that brings out the pious bloodhounds?

The first 100 pages of his recent autobiography sizzle with revelations and insights about American politics and morality. Then our friend from the Eastern shore seems to run out of gas as he pads the story and overemphasizes his massive guilt trip.

His accounting of his childhood provides a classic Freudian analysis of the cold stepmother who ships him off to a military school at a tender age. Then he earns his political apprenticeship as a page in Congress.

He sums up the trauma of his early development by informing us, "At an early age I learned forcefully a basic axiom governing sexual matters in America; if it feels good it is almost certainly wrong."

What is really significant about *The Gentleman From Maryland* is not what is said, but who is saying it — a reactionary politician, somewhere to the right of John Wayne. We are quite accustomed to hearing such frank unburdening from Hollywood stars, sports figures, and men of the cloth, but not from someone like Robert Bauman.

We wish Bob the best and hope he can represent the gay viewpoint in a stirring and effective manner among uptight Republicans. If he has finally accepted himself fully as a gay man he can now cease the breast beating and get on with a full life.

Ambush

(Continued from previous page)

like Bill McNeil, Snowflake, Lou Rudolph, Tony DeRosa, Tom Hinde, and Chuck Arnett. Writers like Jack Fritscher and poets like Ron Johnson, Jack Sharpless, and Tom Gunne. Theater artists like Robert Chesley and Peter Hartman.

Art exploded from the walls of the Ambush too. Some 30 times a year the Ambush exhibited artists in images that ranged from the abstract to the overtly sexual. Some artists like Rex and Tom of Finland were well known by all, others were local artists like myself. I had three photographic shows at the Ambush over the years. With shows like "City of Wounded Boys and Sexual Warriors," "Lost on a Sea of Desire" and "Sexual Portraits and Private Acts from the War Zone" I was able to show images of sexuality and desire that could not be shown anywhere else.

And the glue that connected this all together was a sense of belonging and family, a sense of

community and a shared vision, desire and experience. It was a bar owned by men in the community for other men in the community. We weren't just customers, we were friends.

Times change. A number of years ago a 90-day suspension from selling alcohol by the Alcohol Beverage Commission ended sex in the bathroom. And later, the very success of the bar and expansions and improvements(?) may have helped lead to the bar's demise.

But something remains that can never be taken away. A certain spirit and verve for life. The Ambush used to balance Buckley's driven cry with a song by a silky black jazz rock band whose name I have long since forgotten: "You've been gone, it's an empty room. Come back home where you belong. Always know you are welcome home, welcome home."

The Ambush is a monument for me, and with its closure a chapter in my life comes to a close. There is no going back, nor even looking back over my shoulder. But I will never forget.

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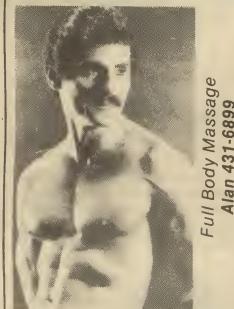
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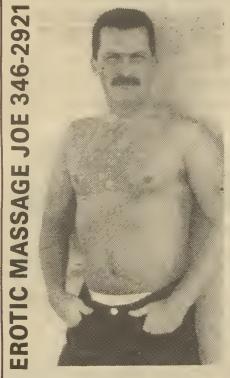
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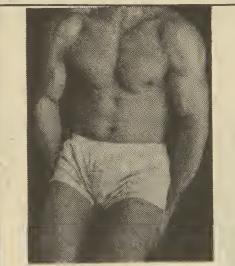
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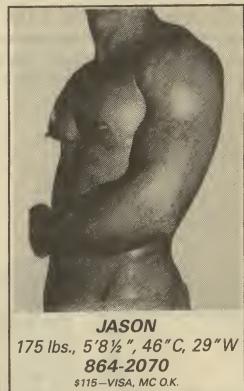
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CONTINUED

POOL

BOWLING

Gay Softball League Changes Abound

by Tom Vinded

Who would have thought that a coach who gave you four league championships and one world championship would be unceremoniously dumped from the Gay Softball League by players and sponsors alike? That's what happened to Art Jackson of the Pendulum Pirates.

No coach has a better winning record than Arthur, not to mention that he was an excellent pitching mark, even if it was against weaker teams.

"Bashful" Bob Viercek takes over at the helm for the Pirates, and has already put together another formidable team that should win the championship.

The Badlands Boys are no longer in existence and are rumored to be headed for the Stallion on Polk Street. Last year's Village squad, with a few exceptions, moves to the Endup, where Neil Christie will be in charge. Going from the Cafe San Marcos to the Village will be Francis Medeiros, who will have to fill some big shoes there. Francis will bring several Cafe players with him, as well as retaining two of the Village's and the league's most popular players, Bob DiTulio and Mark Warlick. Can Francis win a third straight Amateur Night title for the Village?

Terry McCord and several members of the Cafe team are assembling a group that will be

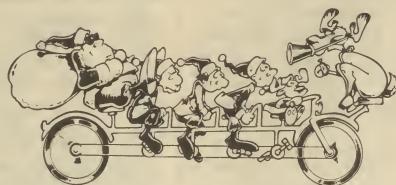
self-sponsored and will visit AIDS patients after games instead of getting blitzed like the rest of us. There is certainly something nice about this group, and I wish them the best.

Skip Schafer had one good year as coach of the Kokpit and decided he had enough. John Larisa didn't win a championship title, lover, or election, so he moved back to Boston. Frank DeFendis took the year off and got so depressed he's moving to Los Angeles. Jerry Gonzales of the Eagle is tending bar in Kansas City and is getting ready for the season there. That should be around May for KC, what with all that snow. Bob Docca and Tom Vinded will sit in the stands this year and knit. Bill Pielock will join Joann and root for the Pendulum this year. That should win them lots of support!

These are the changes as of December. What will March bring? Should be interesting.

The Snowball dance was a terrific success due to the hospitality of Ray Chalker and his staff at the Rawhide II. To the surprise of many, the GSL was well represented with a good turnout of players and fans. Special note: the Pendulum had at least six players there, along with four or five friends.

Next week my Christmas wish list will appear, to be followed by my New Years predictions. You'll love it.



"I want to live to be a dirty old man."

It's one thing to know about safe sex, but you don't just wake up one morning and say, 'That's just great. Let's do it.' But I finally learned that you can have fun and still be safe. If you're going to survive this, there's really no other choice." — Bert Bloom

To attend a Stop AIDS meeting, call 621-7177.

The Stop AIDS Project is funded in part by the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health and the California Dept. of Health Services.

Design: Ken Henderson



STOP AIDS PROJECT

It's about change.
And isn't it
about time?

Photo: Tony Plewak

Double DeLuxe Delight

by Lauren Ward

Both DeLuxe teams were victorious last Tuesday in the S.F. Pool Association's fall playoffs.

The DeLuxe Too defeated the Bear T.H.U.G.G.S. 9-6 to finish third out of this season's 24-team field. Bear captain Lea Benson had fielded her strongest team to date, but had to settle for her second consecutive fourth-place finish after playoffs losses to both DeLuxe teams. Captain Tim Chitwood of the "Too's" was pleased to have reached the semifinals for the first time, and felt he learned a lot about what it would take to win a city championship.

After finishing third in the team's first season, (Spring '85) the DeLuxe Ducks have won two city championships and remain undefeated this season after winning Tuesday 9-5 over the Park Bowl 4½ x 9s.

The Ducks started strong by winning the first four games in the race to nine, including successive table runs by team captain Lisa Duncan and Lauren Ward. The 4½ x 9s answered by winning the next three games, but never managed to overcome that initial deficit.

The two teams meet again Dec. 16 at Park Bowl where the larger tables, combined with final-match pressures, will truly put the players to the test. The fall season will end here if the Ducks continue their winning ways. If Park Bowl engineers an upset the city title will go to the winner of the tie-breaker match played at the DeLuxe Dec. 18.

The city champs will represent S.F. at West Coast Challenge XIX, Jan. 9-11, in Reno.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information.

Size Is Relative

by Jerry R. De Young

Not to insinuate that anyone is impressed by size, but you must have noticed by now that the largest gay bowling league is the Wednesday Community League at Japantown with its formidable 28-team lineup.

While we're on the subject of size, for five seasons now, the Gutter Girls have had a petite, 5'2", 100 lb. powerhouse named Miranda propelling her ponderous projectile down the lanes with the dexterity of a diva. Miranda's average at present is an impressive 130, while her other self, Lisa, carries a complementary

speculations. Did the presence of two ABC representatives at the special TGWBL Board of Directors meeting convened at 8 p.m. on 8/10 have something to do with the stats, or lack thereof? Henceforth, can the TGWBL bowlers depend on the timely availability of comprehensive documentation covering their activities on the lanes? While the initial question is muted by the passage of time, the devoted TGWBL bowlers more than deserve a confident, positive response to the latter query.

In spite of the administrative turbulence that surged through the TGWBL during the first half of this season, many bowlers managed to maintain their focus and even to eclipse the ordinary. The following TGWBL 200+ers of 12/10 are marvelous examples of this imperishable dedication to excellence.

Tom Zamot	232
Keith Ray	228
Roy Thorsen	226
Bill Gall	222 211 205 (638 series)
Angelo Maggio	215
Paul Woodard	215
Ron Squires	210
Hank Givan	213
Adrian Stenson	212
Ron McKay	208
Tom Sipple	207
John Games	206
(601 series)	
Larry Kramer	200

Enough truism! Time for

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD BOWLING LEAGUES

Team Standings

SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE (Week 11 of 24 - as of 12/7/86)

1. Awards By Chris	28	12	1. Pilsner Pin Guins	27	9
2. Park Bowl	27	13	2. Park Bowl	27	9
3. Artemis Code	24½	15½	3. The Leftovers	26	10
4. Mary's Futons	24	16	4. Play With It, Ltd.	25	11
5. Express Comp.	24	16	5. Ram's Head Bar	24	12
6. Amelia's	24	16	6. Whirl & Twirl Girls	24	12
7. Olive Oil's	23	17	7. Dicks At The Beach	21½	14½
8. Mona Tong Realty	22	18	8. Pilsner #1	21	15
9. Francis Coffee	21	19	9. S.F. Eagle	20½	15½
10. Cassidy Cabinets	19½	20½	10. Pendulum Pandas	20	16
11. Jeffes & Associates	19	21	11. OTR Again Travel	20	16
12. Spare Us	19	21	12. Pilsner Potlickers	17½	18½
13. S.F. Reporting	19	21	13. For Your Eyes Only	17½	18½
14. Sidney's Pinheads	18½	21½	14. D.K. Unmentionables	16	20
15. Women's Trng Cntrs	16½	23½	15. Marina Resort	15	21
16. Code Blue	16	24	16. Quite Tita's	13½	22½
17. About Paper +	15	25	17. Opus I	13	23
18. Cafè Commons	15	25	18. Village Buddies	12½	23½
19. Maud's Squad	14	26	19. Pin Pricks	10½	25½
20. Better Natural	10	30	20. Pointless Sisters	9½	26½
			21. Specialettes	9	27
			22. Gutter Girls	9	27

TAVERN GUILD MONDAY LEAGUE (Week 9 of 21 - as of 12/1/86)

1. Mr. Pilsner	24	12	1. Park Bowl	26	10
2. Play With It, Ltd.	23	13	2. Belden 22	24	12
3. Pilsner Powder Puffs	22	14	3. Trocadero	24	12
4. Park Bowl	22	14	4. Paradise Lounge	23	13
5. Pilsner Pintless Sisters	21	15	5. The 69 Club	22½	13½
6. C.C. Riders	21	15	6. Play With It, Ltd.	21	15
7. Watering Holes	20½	15½	7. Wooden Horse	21	15
8. Rainbow Bears	20	16	8. Sticky Buns Bears	21	15
9. Pinbusters	20	16	9. Dive Inn	21	15
10. Inside Out	19	17	10. Cock-A-Doodle-Doo	20	16
11. Mus/Nic Construction	17½	18½	11. Wild Balls	20	16
12. Pendulum	17	19	12. S.F. Eagle	19	17
13. Capricorn Coffee	16	20	13. Just Trax	18	18
14. 757 Medical	16	20	14. Trax Trash	16	20
15. Station Go Aheads	15	21	15. PB Wrong #'s	16	20
16. Pin Tweakers	14	22	16. The Clean-up Artists	12	24
17. The Club	14	22	17. Spare Us	12	24
18. Welcome Home	13	23	18. Inside Out	12	20
19. The Hula's Associates	12	24	19. Superstar Video	11½	20½
20. Team #10	12	24	20. Capricorn Coffee	11	25
			21. Crescent City Cafe	11	25
			22. Station Studs	10	26

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

Rice

(Continued from page 32)
demystification of traditional vampire folklore lends an eery "validity" to the narrative.

And then there is Rice's reference to the earlier vampire book, *Interview with the Vampire*. We are given to know by the vampire Lestat that he has found a copy of *Interview*, and through its story he has realized his friend and protege Louis has revealed his own story to the world. This is a terribly clever device which allows the reader some spine-tingling speculation on the possibility that, indeed, Anne Rice herself may be privy to something other-worldly of which—up to now—we have been simply ignorant.

Throughout the novel is the long view of history, of changing fashions and landscapes, but seen from the viewpoint not of history, but of experience. The immortality of these creatures lends the book its peculiar and delicious time factor—the reader is present in the here-and-now with the teller of the tale, as well as telescoped into the past whenever the narrators remember (or even live within) events from centuries past. It's an intoxicating viewpoint, one that makes the reader long for immortality as well, no matter the bloody path by which it is achieved.

The gothic mood of the story is never broken. Lovers of thrills and chills will find plenty to their liking here, yet Rice is in no way



Ann Rice, a.k.a. A.N. Rocquelaure, a.k.a. Anne Rampling
(Photo: Rink)

a genre writer. Make no mistake, this is highly literate stuff, all the more so because—while presenting a story that captivates the reader with its wild originality and plotting so energetic the book nearly throbs—Rice examines the nature of good and evil, human passion, greed, loss, sadness, longing, and tragedy. •

At book's close, we learn that an entire vampire cult has sprung up in response to Lestat's rock 'n' roll superstardom and Louis' revelations in *Interview*. Among this response is the opening of a club on Castro Street called "Dracula's Daughter." I'm ready. •

Warren

(Continued from page 36)

Magic even gives us a location scene in hell.

It comes down to a question of whether Good or Evil has the better special effects crew, and it's a lot like last summer's dud *Big Trouble in Little China*.

Murphy's personality is the deciding factor. Even apart from his homophobe statements off screen, his shtick has become boring. He was great in *Beverly Hills Cop*, but here his performance is reduced to the smartass elements—including an occasional lisp—without the intervening subtleties that made them endurable. How many times can you hear him say "Kiss my ass" without wanting to kick it, or listen to his horse laugh unless you're another horse?

It's obvious Michael Ritchie directed this one for the money,

which everyone involved will doubtless make a pile of. Critical acclaim is the last thing they need or expect, and the last thing they'll get from me. (Regency 2, Plaza, Geneva D-I)

BY THE NUMBERS

The Glenn Miller Story is a by-the-musical-numbers Hollywood biography that says more about the '50s when it was made than 1928-44 when it takes place. It's sweet and corny, romanticizing the values Reagan would reimpose on the country: patriotism and pawn shops, swing bands and shotgun weddings, green eyes and great music. The Oscar-winning sound has been remixed in Dolby Stereo for this re-issue. Otherwise everything is as it was in 1954, when there was a little woman (June Allyson) behind every great man (James Stewart), ironing and inspiring; and "the boys in the band" were all musicians. (Castro, 12/21-25).

Nutcracker

(Continued from page 35)

(soloist in "Waltz of the Flowers") with razor-sharp precision. Val Caniparoli, probably the company's best character dancer, creates an excellent characterization for Herr Drosselmeyer. One wishes he might return at the apotheosis, a detail which gives some productions a touch of dramatic unity the ballet lacks otherwise.

A children's ballet? Yes, and more so than ever in Varona's

crayola second act, though it will probably appeal to a great many adults too. Yet as a musical experience, Tchaikovsky's score bridges enormous gaps in dramatic credibility and esthetic preference; the composer knew better than anyone how to recall the child in us all, whatever our ages. The score is the great strength and unifying factor in every production of *The Nutcracker*, and the San Francisco Ballet honors it with spirited performances that finally transcend details of production. Denis de Coteau conducted the orchestra with alacrity and care. •

Chorus Needs Director

It is with deep regret that the members of The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco accept the resignation of their Director, Rodger D. Pettyjohn. Rodger's reasons for leaving the Chorus are personal, and the Chorus will continue its usual rehearsal and performance schedule without him.

a permanent or interim Director to assume the position after Jan. 1. Experienced applicants should send their resumes to: The Lesbian/Gay Chorus, 584 Castro St., Suite 284, S.F., CA 94114.

The Chorus appreciates all of the hard work Rodger has put into its development and wishes to thank him for his efforts. •

Karr

(Continued from page 33)
the film, discussed it at length, and Waters was invited back.

"For the first time, I felt socially redeeming," he says.

Waters may have learned more from the seminarians than his students. He explores the nature of crime, and is forced to question his own identity and artistic output. It's disconcerting, fascinating. "No parents raise their children to be killers," he writes, and the bottom line of the essay is Waters' humanity. "Why did it happen to them and not me?"

Although brief at 144 pages, *Crackpot* is choice. Waters' irreverent renegade stance allows his perceptive wit to score brightly wherever he aims. A combination Hunter Thompson and Parker Tyler, Waters' first collection proves his new career is his for the long run.

Also of note: Dennis Cooper, author of *Safe* and *He Cried*, will be at the Intersection for a reading on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. •

(Crown, \$18.95), as just the popcorn read you want for the winter vacation. Heck, this is the family-size buttered tub of a novel. It demands to be devoured at a gulp, racing through sex, romance, drugs, crime, and more sex in its true-to-detail saga of the fashion industry. From Coco Chanel's heyday until today, this novel sweeps along and is written well enough to demand believability for its larger-than-life melodrama. Author Brady, a former publisher of *Women's Wear Daily*, and editor in chief of *New York* magazine, knows whereof he speaks, rendering the world of high fashion in gaudy and gruesome colors. He also deals sensitively with the many gay relationships to be found in that milieu, especially the non-sexual love that can be shared by men as portrayed in the story of gay designer Adam Green and his mentor, Marc Street. I can't wait to see this as a TV mini-series!

Also of note: Dennis Cooper, author of *Safe* and *He Cried*, will be at the Intersection for a reading on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. •

Natural Holiday Party

Celebrate Christmas, Hannukah, the Winter Solstice, or the holiday of your choice Friday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Zen Center Guest House, 273 Page St., S.F. There will be a vegetarian natural foods buffet, music, a visit from Santa, and door prizes. The event is one of a series of dinners sponsored by the S.F. Macrobiotic Network. An \$8 donation is asked, with sliding scale for PWAs. \$1 of the donation will be used to buy food for the AIDS Foundation Foodbank. To reserve, call 647-3347. •



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AGLA Media Awards Show

The Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Artists in the Entertainment Industry has announced that March 21, 1987 will be the date of its Sixth Annual Media Awards Show to be held at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. As in previous years, awards will be given to motion picture, television, and theater productions that have portrayed gay and lesbian characters in a responsible manner.

Last year's show, also held at the Wilshire Ebell, honored a number of AIDS-orientated shows as well as episodes of *Brothers, Kate and Allie, Hotel, Night Court*, and *St. Elsewhere*. The made-for-television movie *Consenting Adult* was a big winner, as was KCBS News and the Phil Donahue Show. Last year's presenters included Ed Asner, Lee Meriwether, Susan Sullivan, and Robert Foxworth. Presenters for past years have included Ted Danson, Rita Moreno, Robert Preston, and Sammy Davis, Jr.

1986 was a pivotal year for AGLA. Both Patty Duke, president of SAG, and Rona Barrett addressed AGLA general membership meetings. An alliance was formed between AGLA and SAG to deal with gay and lesbian and AIDS-related issues within the film industry. AGLA opened offices in West Hollywood and Chris Uzler, past Chairperson of AGLA, was appointed as executive director. Uzler spoke at the Exposure conference in Milwaukee.

keen in May as part of the National Association of Business Councils. AGLA members spent a great deal of time and effort lobbying against Proposition 64 helping to insure its defeat. The CBS Program Practices Department strengthened its ties to AGLA by calling upon the organization to give advice on a forthcoming Schoolbreak Special; and in November AGLA and the Gay and Lesbian Press Association co-hosted the first ever Media Weekend training seminar aimed at helping the gay and lesbian community deal with the media. All in all, 1986 was a busy year.

AGLA's Sixth Annual Media Awards Show will offer a change of format, with the showing of clips from the winning shows. The show, which has been permanently moved to Spring, will cover the time period from July, 1985 to December, 1986. Producers of this year's show are Josh Schiowitz and David Westberg. Ticket prices will be \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25. A cocktail reception will begin at 7:30 p.m. with an 8:30 p.m. curtain. For ticket information please call (213) 871-8088.

AGLA encourages the responsible portrayal of gay and lesbian characters and issues in the entertainment media and works to eradicate employment discrimination based on sexual orientation in the entertainment industry.

Nov. 9, Overnight Productions/IMRU elected five new officers to its Board of Directors. Overnight Productions, a non-profit organization, has produced the gay and lesbian radio program called IMRU (a.k.a. I am you?) for 11 consecutive years on KPFK 90.7 FM in Los Angeles.

The Board of Directors elected John A. Diaz, Chief Executive Officer; Josy Catoggio, Vice-President; Jeffrey Bickel, Treasurer; George Atkinson, Secretary; and Anthony Price, Special Events Coordinator. The newly elected officers have previously served on the Board and all are actively involved in producing, engineering, writing, and reporting for Southern California's first lesbian and gay radio show.

In an effort to broaden its input in the gay and lesbian community, the newly elected Board voted to expand its Board membership by three additional seats. The Board announced it is accepting applications for the positions of Public Relations Coordinator, Fundraising/Grants Coordinator, and Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator.

Overnight Productions is an educational nonprofit organization that wishes to expand its horizons in the media as well as to continue its efforts to produce the weekly lesbian and gay radio program IMRU. Therefore, the prospective applicants should have the following qualifications.

- Willingness to make a serious commitment;

IMRU Elections

- Experience in the gay and lesbian community;
- Motivational and creative abilities;
- Willing to work in high profile media position;
- Organizational and administrative experience (preferably nonprofit);
- Experience in radio is not necessary.

The applicants should expect to work hard but also expect to have fun.

All interested parties should call IMRU at (818) 985-2711 or write to IMRU, 3729 Cahenga Blvd. W., North Hollywood, CA 91604, Attention Board of Directors, before Jan. 15.

IMRU can be heard Sundays at 10 p.m. on KPFK 90.7 FM, Los Angeles.

Positions at The Women's Press

The Women's Press is a ten year old collective with a solid base in the Bay Area. It's a union print shop offering offset printing from metal plates. The group is not a publisher and doesn't offer graphics services at this time.

Recently, some of the press' long-time members have decided to move on. In the coming month the collective will re-structure and re-vitalize the shop and is looking for women interested in joining.

The collective wants to talk to women who care about their work and can commit themselves to work for at least a year. There is an equity plan for collective partners, health benefits, sick and vacation pay. Call 626-4477 or come by and fill out an application. Or write The Women's Press, 50 Otis St., SF, CA 94103 and include your resume. If you know someone who would enjoy this opportunity, pass the word.

Dancing Condom T-Shirts

The Safe Sex Is Great Sex® t-shirts with their chorus line of dancing condoms are now available. In an effort to promote safe sex through humor, designer Valerie Randall created dancing condoms to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The shirts are sold only by mail order with \$3 from the sale of each one donated to the AIDS Foundation.

Presence, Randall's company, developed the logo and silk-screened it in six colors on white 100% cotton t-shirts.

"Our approach is education through humor and is easier to confront than the frightening news we read everyday in the papers," says Randall. "The reaction from everyone who sees the dancing condom t-shirt is great! The logo suggests direct action to take against AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. It's a serious subject."

but presenting the facts with a little humor gets people's attention."

Ron DeLuca, Development Director of the SF AIDS Foundation, has officially authorized Presence to use the Foundation's name in promoting the shirts.

"Even the U.S. Surgeon General promotes the use of condoms in stopping AIDS," says Randall. "It's a nationwide concern and we hope to educate people to stop the spread of disease, not to panic."

For more information about the t-shirts, or to order, call the Presence 24-hour line at 928-8676, or mail your name, address, and telephone number with \$12 plus \$1.75 per shirt for shipping, and local sales tax for California residents to Presence, 1850 Union St., #114, San Francisco, CA 94123. Please specify size S, M, L, or XL.

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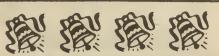
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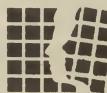
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